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Hafa Adai!

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CNMI SEDC CLARIFIES:

Move to H-visas specific to construction workers

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Strategic Economic Development Council chair Bob Jones clarified yesterday that the council's support of moving workers to the H-visa class was specific to construction workers, explaining that the H2 visa class would not take care of all the CNMI's workers needs when the local contract worker program ends in 2019.

Jones

At the same time, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and newly sworn in Department of Public Lands Secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo reiterated the council's discussion of controlled or "capped growth," with Torres saying an economist is needed for these projections and Teregeyo pointing to a CNMI-wide land use plan in the works that would "balance" development with community needs.

Jones, in a phone call, explained that H-2 visa could not be used "for all categories" of

See H-VISAS on Page 4

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Almost 400 Filipinos renewed their passports during the second mobile consulate mission of the Philippine Consulate General-Guam held from March 5 to 8. Applications for the next mobile mission in May are now being accepted by the office of Philippine honorary consul Glicerio Arago.

'Pre-scheduling passport renewals is good'

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The mobile consular mission of the Philippine Consulate General-Guam has processed almost all of the scheduled Filipinos who needed to renew their passports.

According to Philippine consul Gary Auxilian, only a few people didn't show up on time for their scheduled slots.

For this mission held from March 5 until yesterday at the Don Pedro Restaurant along Middle Road in Garapan, 400 slots were allotted and the schedule was pre-arranged by the Office Of Honorary Consul Glicerio Eli Arago, based on those who submitted their applications in January.

Auxilian said this was a good idea as they only have limited slots and limited time

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Couple claims ownership of $23K seized from China-bound worker

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A couple has claimed ownership of the $23,000 that was seized at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport from a hand-carried luggage of a store worker who was bound for Shanghai, China in February last year.

» Store managers say they are innocent owners; money intended for son's tuition, New Year celebration

Xingnong Xu and his wife, Shaorong Zheng, said they are the innocent owners of the forfeited money at issue.

Xu and Zheng, through counsel Samuel I. Mok, said they did not know that Delin Ma, who actually transported the money, would fail to report the currency on a FinCen Form 105 as required by law.

Mok said the couple collectively earned the money from their joint savings from their longtime employment as managers at LN Market and Blue Sky Market.

Mok said the $20,000 was intended for the couple's son's living expenses and tuition

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LOCAL
Visiting archaeologist Dr. Mike T. Carson said more surveys would be needed to further study the remains at the Ritidian Site in Guam's northernmost point.
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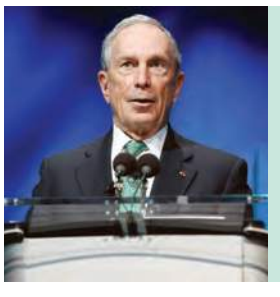

NATION
Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Monday that he will not run for president.
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LIFE & STYLE
A jury awarded Erin Andrews $55 million on Monday in her lawsuit against a stalkerwho bought a hotel room next to her and secretly recorded a nude video.
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CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF) PROGRAM
2016 SUMMER PROGRAM GRANT

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program announces an opportunity for non-profit, community/faith based organizations to participate in a Summer Program Grant for 2016. This grant is open to organizations that offer Summer Program Activities to all school-aged children between the ages 6 to 12 years old (through 12). For this grant, a total of five (5) awards will be provided. CCDF has the right to award smaller grant awards as appropriate.

CCDF Summer Program Grant Application Packets maybe picked up at the
Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program Office,
Building No. 1347 Ascension Court, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950

Interested applicants should submit one (1) original and six (6) copies of the completed application and requirements, sealed and marked: CCDF Summer Program Grant Application 2016. **All applications must be stamped received no later than April 8, 2016 no later than 3:00p.m.** Incomplete applications will be returned. Faxed and e-mailed applications will not be reviewed and will be returned to the applicant.

Only written inquiries will be entertained. Inquiries regarding this grant opportunity should be addressed to Roselle Teregeyo, CCDF Accountant/Summer Program Lead before **March 25, 2016** and can be made in the following way:

1. In writing and forwarded to the address above or
2. Thru e-mail at ccdf.roselleteregeyo@gmail.com

All inquiries made after March 25, 2016 will not be entertained. Phone inquiries will not be accepted.

/s/ Maribel S.D. Loste
CCDF Administrator

/s/ Laura T. Ogumoro
DCCA Secretary

Local

‘CHCC not in financial position to open Rota dialysis center’

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has responded to Sen. Paul A. Manglona’s (Ind-Rota) call for an update on Rota’s inoperable dialysis center, explaining that they are “not in the financial position” to move forward with its opening.

» Cost benefit analysis forthcoming

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna responded to Manglona’s letter in February, where he stressed that the facility’s opening was long overdue and a delay that has shifted costs to Rota patients who have to seek treatment on Saipan.

Muna’s March 4, 2016, letter explains the “major” renovations, repairs, and qualified personnel the dialysis center would need before opening.

Muna said that should CHCC undertake making the facility safe and ready for dialysis services—by making the necessary renovations and repairs and begin recruiting critical personnel that meet the required qualifications—“it will cost CHCC millions of dollars.”

“CHCC is currently not in the financial position to move with such undertaking,” she added.

However, Muna said they aim to look for opportunities that can help them fund the project, which was completed sometime around 2009, “in the future.”

Manglona told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Muna was on Rota Monday to meet with Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig and the Rota delegation on the issues of medical referral, the hemodialysis project in question, and other health issues.

Muna also sent technical staff to assess the hemodialysis facility, Manglona said.

“CEO Muna assured the members that she will be giving us in a few weeks a break down on the cost to upgrade the facility as well as the staffing necessary to run the facility,” Manglona said in an email. “From there we will do a cost-benefit analysis.

“We appreciate her sincere concern on the health issues affecting our residents here on Rota,” he added.

‘Major’ renovations needed

Muna, in her letter, listed the concerns that “prevent CHCC from moving forward” with the opening of the facility.

On water treatment, Muna said there must be evidence that the water used for dialysis center meets the water treatment standards of the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation and that it is “biologically and chemically acceptable.”

Muna said the reverse osmosis machine that is currently in the facility would need major repair or replacement in order to meet the standards.

She also stated that “major” renovations are needed to ensure compliance of the physical environment, with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards.

Qualified personnel will also be needed as stated in the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services regulations.

“Personnel assigned to work in the facility must hold the qualifications in credentials and actual experience working in dialysis facility,” Muna said.

“The facility must have adequate laboratory services that provide tests of moderate complexity,” she added.

Muna notes that the Rota Health Center laboratory is not equipped to provide tests and would again require major renovation, additional qualified personnel, and adequate equipment to meet Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments or CLIA requirements.

Like Manglona, Muna said she desires to assist Rota residents in their dialysis services; however, critical areas were missed when the facility was constructed.

“It is important to note that prior to opening any health care facility, it is critical to ensure the facility is safe, functional, and sanitary and the patients and staff are prepared for emergencies,” Muna said.

“Compliance with regulations for dialysis services is significant for reimbursing and in ensuring financial sustainability of the program,” she added.

The $1.5-million dialysis center was built through federal Capital Improvement Project money. ***(With reports from Dennis B. Chan)***

McFun Run raises over $5K

The 2016 Rotary McFun Run raised more than $5,700 with the money collected going directly to the Rotary Club Saipan’s funds for its various services and projects in the community.

Rotary president Curtis Dancoe made the announcement in their meeting yesterday at Hyatt Regency Saipan’s Giovanni’s restaurant.

“It was a great turnout, a great fundraising program, and a healthy way of doing it. We thanked all the individuals and businesses that participated, and all the volunteers who helped us organize the event,” said Dancoe.

Rotary Saipan then gave out some certificates to several businesses and groups that supported them in the second staging of the fun run.

T Galleria, First Hawaiian Bank, MARPAC, Micronesian Brokers, Inc., Pacific Islands Club, Maeda Pacific Corp., SP Dancoe & Associates, Hyatt, Best Sunshine International, Ltd., Armatech, and the United Filipino Organization are some of the companies and groups that were given certificates.

Keith Longuski and Mamiko Berger, who are both familiar faces in the local running scene, ruled the men’s and women’s 10-kilometer race from the Carolinian Utt in Garapan to Oleai Beach Bar and back with times of 34:40 and 37:13, respectively.

Agape Christian School’s Hao Yu Chen topped the men’s 5K event with a time of 18:31 to break the 20:05 set by Longuski last year, while Noriko Jim shattered her own mark of 23:48 last year by logging 21:09 to clinch the women’s crown in the same distance.

Angel Marie Tan, Stephanie Moline, Pipit Ball, Gary Bandoja, Steven Pixley, and Jane Stewart are the age group finishers in the 5K, while Chang Whan Jang, Lorie Hutchison, Conatsu Kaga, Caleb Wang, Charlie Sendin, and Rev. Fr. James Balajadia duplicated their feat in the 10K.

Almost 300 joined last month’s race to eclipse the 196 tally of 2015. McDonald’s Saipan and Rotary Club of Saipan jointly organized the event. ***(Jon Perez)***

Lawyer asks court to declare 2016 Budget Act unconstitutional

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

»3 other groups of claimants have $266,056.50 judgments still unpaid for over 7 years now

Attorney Michael W. Dotts, counsel for the parents of a baby who died during delivery in 2012 at the Commonwealth Health Center, has asked the Superior Court to declare the 2016 Budget Act unconstitutional.

Dotts said the Budget Act of 2016 is unconstitutionally unbalanced under the Commonwealth Constitution, Article 3, Section 9(a) because it did not provide for the payment of judgments in a reasonable amount.

Further, Dotts said, the 2016 Budget Act is unconstitutional under both the Commonwealth Constitution and the U.S. Constitution as violating both procedural due process and equal protection.

The lawyer said any subsequent budget act that does not provide for the payment of judgments will be unconstitutional.

Dotts is counsel for Jotonia B. Aguon and Timothy Cruz, who are holding a $35,000 judgment against the government over the death of their child.

Dotts is also counsel for Gorjonny Camacho, who is holding a $10,000 judgment against the government in connection with his medical malpractice lawsuit.

Camacho went to CHC for an appendectomy, but the surgeon instead allegedly used permanent stitches instead of dissolving stitches.

As a result, a skin nodule developed on the site of the surgery, causing him pain and forcing him to undergo a second surgery to remove the skin nodule and remove his stitches.

Dotts brought up the issue of the unbalanced 2016 budget in order to collect payments for court judgments against the government.

Dotts also disclosed that there are three groups of people who are also holding judgments who will be affected by such motion.

The total amount of such three judgments was $266,056.50 and that for five to more than seven years the judgments have remained unpaid. One claimant even already died.

Dotts said in ongoing cases, the government takes the position that if the plaintiffs go to trial, their judgments may never be paid.

In fact, the lawyer pointed out, litigants who have gone to trial, are indeed not getting paid, while those who have settled for amounts less than what they would likely have recovered at trial, are being paid by the government.

"In essence, the budgeting process and the 2016 Budget Act are being used by the government as litigation tools, and to repudiate judgments," he said.

Further, Dotts said, the government has set up a program to reduce judgments that are dependent upon the continued "failure" of the Legislature to appropriate to pay judgments.

Dotts said under a tax assignment program, a judgment holder can sell their judgment as a tax credit if they agree to first reduce their judgment by 33 percent, and waive interest (a second discount of the judgment between 10 percent and 25 percent then needs to be given to entice businesses to buy the tax credits).

Dotts said a separate program sets aside $2 million as tax credits but judgments are reduced in proportion to all those who submit judgments for payment to that program.

The lawyer again said the government's refusal to pay judgments is being used, improperly, to avoid paying the full amount of its lawful obligations.

Dotts said the framers of the Constitution never intended to create a government that actively thwarts court-entered judgments through tax credit schemes.

Moreover, he said, the way the government has been using the 2016 Budget Act to force settlements, reduce judgments by 33 percent when sold as tax credits, and at the end paying court ordered interest on judgments, "shocks the conscience, leaves plaintiffs (as well as other judgment holders) with no meaningful recourse, and unjustifiably discriminates against judgment holders while favoring those who settle."

"As such, the 2016 Budget Act also violates due process and equal protection," he said.

Dotts said the evidence will show that the government has repudiated judgments as its continuing liability, as part of an overall scheme to bypass court-determined amounts owed and attempted to unilaterally dictate the extent and existence of its liabilities.

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Man knocks out bar customer

A customer was injured and knocked out when a man allegedly punched him on the face at a bar in western Garapan Saturday night.

Christopher Broome was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center due to injuries to the bridge of his nose that required seven stitches.

The suspect, David James Maurer Aguon, 30, was arrested and taken to Superior Court yesterday for bail hearing on charges of assault and battery, and aggravated assault and battery.

Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio imposed an $11,000 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for March 18 at 9am.

Kim-Tenorio found Aguon not indigent and ordered him to hire a private attorney.

Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub appeared for the government.

Police Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that a police officer was sent to CHC's emergency room to investigate an injured person on Sunday at 3:36am.

When the officer arrived in the trauma room, he observed Broome with a Band-Aid on his nose and blood coming out of his nostrils.

Broome told the officer that he was punched on the face and was knocked out at White and Black Bar in western Garapan. Police Officer Jason Tarkong later called another officer on Sunday at 11:45am and that Broome identified the suspect inside Tribes Bar in Garapan.

Tarkong interviewed a witness, who identified Aguon inside the Tribes Bar as the person who punched Broome on the face.

On Sunday at 2:17pm, police arrested Aguon.

Broome told police that he was over at White and Black Bar with three friends when Aguon knocked him out by punching him on the face.

Saipan Tribune learned that Broome was apparently harassing Aguon, prompting the latter to punch him. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CPA board authorizes sale of Delta shares

The board of the directors of the Commonwealth Ports Authority has authorized the sale of its shares in Delta Airlines Inc.

During the board meeting last Wednesday, the CPA board passed Resolution No. 16-03, which is a resolution regarding sale authorization.

According to director Kimberly King-Hinds, who introduced the motion, a resolution was needed for the sale of the shares, as was discussed in their prior board meetings.

The resolution states that the board "owns" the Delta shares and "has the authority to sell, assign, and transfer securities."

It added that the board "desires to sell its shares" and is therefore authorizing the sale of the shares.

Acting board chair Thomas P. Villagomez, secretary Roman T. Tudela, and directors Pete P. Reyes, Barrie C. Toves, and Hinds all voted to pass the resolution.

Back in October of last year, CPA has been contemplating the sale of the said shares in light of an investment policy in the works.

During that time, the over 9,000 shares of CPA was priced at $46 each, according to CPA comptroller Skye Aldan.

The shares were originally debt owed them by Northwest Airlines. When Northwest filed for bankruptcy, the airline took the debt and converted it into common shares in its reorganization plan.

With the shares, CPA is sitting on around $400,000 presently as the stocks which had then little value has appreciated. The board discussed that in 2010, the value of the stock was at $11.51, and in 2013, the closing price was at $18.41.

The board previously discussed recovering the $400,000 and taking care of the $165,000 in debt, and keeping the net balance with Delta or toward an investment or project.

On the investment option, Aldan said they would follow investment policy statement, which CPA has drafted and would present to the CPA finance committee for review and comments. ***(Frauleine Villanueva-Dizon)***

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
The Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors during a meeting at the Port of Saipan last Wednesday.

Small craft advisory cancelled

The CNMI Emergency Operations Center has cancelled a small craft advisory after buoys indicate combined seas have subsided and are only occasionally reaching slightly over 9 feet.

Regional observations and ascat analysis also indicate winds have also subsided and are now between 10 and 20 knots.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center, moderate to fresh trade winds will become gentle to moderate by Thursday. Combined seas of 7 to 9 feet will continue to slowly subside over the next few days and dropping to between 5 and 7 feet Thursday evening.

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, however, is advising the general public and inexperience mariners—especially those operating smaller vessels—to continue exercise caution as the sea and wind will remain just below hazardous level for a few days. ***(PR)***

PASSPORT

From Page 1

during mobile missions and through scheduling those who really needed immediate passport renewals may be given special attention.

"I think it's also good because there are some who don't really need the immediate renewal of their passports so, at least, [Arago's office] is able to screen and ask for those people to give way to those who really need to renew their passports already," Auxilian said.

Although there is a schedule, Auxilian said the applications are not preprocessed. This way, clogging of their database will be avoided.

"On our part, we really try to attend to the needs of our *kababayans*," Auxilian said.

Auxilian added that they are also able to process 16 extensions of validity of passports under the new circular, which requires those who extended their passports' validity to also apply for renewal.

"It's a requirement under the new circular. They have to also be in the process of renewing their passports," Auxilian said.

Last January they stopped approving validity extensions of passports but there was a demand from Philippine posts from various areas of the globe.

"Due to the request of several posts, there are still some people who needed to extend the validity of their passports," Auxilian said.

They were also able to process at least two reports of birth, one report of marriage, and four dual citizenship applications.

"We're happy that our consular mission is orderly, smooth," Auxilian said.

The next mobile mission will be on May, for which the Office of the Honorary Consul has already started accepting applications for scheduling.

A fourth mission this year will be held sometime in July.

Passports renewed last January and voters' ID can also be claimed through Arago's office. For other inquiries, the public may reach out to Mel Santos at 233-2898.

H-VISAS

From Page 1

workers. For other jobs, the CNMI could find workers locally, but the contract worker program is going to be called for technical people in accounting or information technology.

"This H2 visa is not going to take care of the 2019 expiration of CW workers," Jones said.

"…[The governor] and all of us realize we can't eliminate the CW program altogether," Jones said.

Come 2019, Jones and Torres believe the CNMI is going need a "better alternative" than the H2 category, but that the larger task remains of finding the proper category for employees to operate all the new tourist industry facilities that are being developed currently.

The "first phase" to sustain workers in the CNMI, Jones said, "is to eliminate CW construction workers and replace them with H-2" class workers. The contract worker visa class could be used for operations, but the H-visa could be used "for all these new development," he said.

Torres, for his part, addressed questions on whether the CNMI's infrastructure could handle all the investment coming in.

"We obviously need growth. There is no dispute about that," Torres told reporters yesterday. "It's how fast do we want growth and what point do we say we have enough."

Torres said it is in the works to have an economist on board to "do our projections as we move forward." "Currently, we have a shortage of rooms, we know that. For the new investments that are coming in, we want to encourage those investments. At the same time, we are waiting and seeing at what level do we want to cap those investments.

Torres also continued to encourage the business community to avail of the H-1 visa and preserve the contract worker visa "for those that are critical."

Referring to the cap on contract workers allowed in the NMI, Torres said the CNMI needs a "maximum the usage of those numbers of CW that we have."

Torres also acknowledged that another issue was that the CNMI was not really a "hop, skip, and jump" from Asia as it takes two or three hours and a long Customs line for incoming tourist.

This was one of the issues he has talked with the local ports authority about, he said, as it plays into the airport's new master plan and expansion.

"That is one area that we would like to expedite," Torres said, "to expand and make the waiting time comparable with U.S. and other major destinations."

Teregeyo, for her part, said the land use plan should be able to balance out the need for developments and the needs of the community, and its Northern Marianas Descent as it relates to homesteads. "Once we get that land use plan—together with conservation areas, recreation areas—that is going to be our guideline for where we allow permits for common areas like" fishing bases or community areas.

A contract was supposed to be signed off on recently but the vendor selected by procurement and her predecessor asked to step back to August, or retract their proposal.

"At the moment, I've put into the budget office DPL's budget of $1 million for the land use plan," Teregeyo said, explaining that there was a great disparity between the bid selected that the other two bids.

"So it is a matter of seeing if we can fund for the other two and cancel it, or continue through and wait until August," she said.

COUPLE

From Page 1

payment for a private school and Xu's mother for Chinese New Year celebration.

Mok said $3,000 was for a personal loan to Ma.

Mok asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to return to the couple the seized $23,000.

A federal grand jury indicted Ma with one count of bulk cash smuggling out of the United States.

Under the currency reporting laws, a person is required to report any amount of currency $10,000 and over when traveling out of or into the U.S.

Ma pleaded guilty.

Attorney Mark Hanson, counsel for Ma, said the defendant was stopped at the Saipan airport on his way back to China for his son's wedding.

Hanson said Ma, who was a farmer in China and worked in the CNMI since 1997, has no criminal record.

Hanson said Ma was scared at the time, and that it was the first time he had carried money through the airport in this fashion.

In December 2015, the court imposed a 36-month probation sentence on the 52-year-old Ma. The court forfeited the $23,000 seized from Ma.

The court also ordered the return to Ma of the $3,294 that he was carrying on his person at the time of his arrest.

In Xu's and Zheng's petition for return of the seized property filed on Monday, Mok said at the time of the seizure, Ma was a full-time employee of LN Market.

Ma was responsible for the warehouse and maintaining the store's inventory.

Mok said at the time of the seizure, Zheng also worked at LN Market along with her husbad, Xu.

Both Xu and Zheng jointly manage LN Market and Blue Sky Supermarket.

Mok said Ma is Zheng's distant relative.

The lawyer said the couple gave Ma $3,000 as a personal loan because the latter was attending his son's wedding in China.

On Feb. 12, 2015, Xu received a phone call from his mother in China stating that she needed money to pay for their son's living expenses and school tuition payment.

Mok said Xu's mother also needed money for the upcoming Chinese New Year as she was expected to give lucky red envelopes to their family's relatives in China.

Mok said according to Zheng since Ma was already scheduled to go to China for his son's wedding that perhaps the couple should give Ma $20,000 to take to Zheng's mother-in-law.

Mok said Zheng did not know that Ma would not properly report the money by failing to complete the FinCen Form 105.

"Mr. Ma's failure to do so was solely his own," the lawyer said.

Archaeologist: More surveys to be done at Ritidian Site

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Visiting archaeologist Dr. Mike T. Carson said more surveys would be needed to further study the remains at the Ritidian Site in Guam's northernmost point. Ritidian Point is part of Guam's National Wildlife Refuge and is under the administration of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Carson was on Saipan last week where he shared his findings at the Ritidian Site in an almost two-hour lecture sponsored by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Charley's Cabaret.

The National Endowment of the Humanities funded Carson's visit to Saipan, which is part of NMHC's Community Lecture Series.

Carson and Brian Leon Guerrero, a GNWR maintenance worker, "rediscovered" the site a few years ago while exploring a cave in the area. Hans Horbostel, employed by Hawaii's Bernice P. Bishop Museum, first discovered and collected remains at the site almost 100 years ago.

"Even now, after several years of intensive research, we need to conduct more surveys of some of the areas where we have not yet checked carefully," Carson said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune.*

Carson added that local informants in Guam knew very well of the latte stones and other remains in some caves in the site even before Hornbostel conducted the first survey.

"The Ritidian Site was known for its latte structures and caves for a very long time, but a detailed archaeological study was not performed until recently," said Carson.

He added that Hornbostel did not conduct a thorough inventory of the remains at the Ritidian Site and failed to document the artworks of ancient Chamorros inside the limestone caves in Guam's northernmost point.

"Over the last several years, archaeological research has been very intensive, not only to document the surface-visible latte and caves, but also to explore the much older site layers buried deep beneath the present-day ground surface," Carson said.

Carson is an associate professor of archaeology at the Richard F. Taitano Micronesian Area Research Center in the University of Guam and also in the faculty of the Australian National University in Canberra.

He and his wife, Dr. Hsiao-chun Hung has published many books and works like "The First Settlement of Remote Oceania: The Philippines to the Marianas" that became a part of the academic journal Antiquity, which is published by the Cambridge University Press.

"First Settlement of Remote Oceania: Earliest Sites in the Mariana Islands" is a book recently published by Springer New York.

Alleged leader of group that smuggled $850K worth of 'ice' signs plea deal

One of the three suspects in the shipment of 4.9 lbs of methamphetamine or "ice" worth $850,000 has signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth R. Backe informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday that the U.S. government and defendant Xi Huang have signed a plea agreement.

The plea deal was filed in court under seal yesterday.

Backe requested the court to set the case for a change of plea hearing for today, Wednesday, at 1:30pm.

The court granted the U.S. government's request for change of plea hearing.

An indictment charged Huang, Shicheng Cai, and Zhaopeng Chen with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine. The indictment includes a criminal forfeiture allegation.

According to the indictment, the three defendants, all Chinese nationals, conspired between Nov. 30 and Dec. 4, 2015, to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

Last Dec. 10, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the U.S. government's motion to detain the defendants pending trial after determining that they are a flight risk.

Manglona said the evidence suggests that Huang was the leader of the group.

A routine Customs inspection at the Port of Saipan of a 40-foot container from Guangzhou, China, resulted in the discovery of the 4.9 lbs of "ice" hidden in three plastic bags in one of the nine 5-gallon paint containers last Dec. 2.

Joint federal and local enforcers investigated the discovery of the "ice" that led to the arrest of Huang, Cai, and Chen. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

INVITATION FOR BIDS

ITB16-HSEM-075

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER DRIVEWAY AND PARKING IMPROVEMENT, PROJECT NO. HSEMA-2016-001, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) are soliciting sealed bids for the Driveway and Parking Improvement Project at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Capitol Hill, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package consisting of Plans, Specifications and Bid Documents will be available on or after **March 09, 2016** at Pacific Quick Print & Post, located at Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **$18.75** to Pacific Quick Print & Post, is required to defray the cost of printing the package.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid package in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **March 16, 2016**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Emergency Operations Center, Capitol Hill. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **March 18, 2016** to **Mr. James R. Rabauliman, Procurement Officer of HSEMA Bureau of Administration and Grants Services,** at Government Quarters NO. 1313, Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 664-2218. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examined and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matter relative there to is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4;30 pm to **Mr. James R. Rabauliman, Procurement Officer of HSEMA Bureau of Administration and Grants Services,** at Government Quarters No. 1313, Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 664-2218.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids, the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Procurement Officer of the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO choose, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the Procurement Officer of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency at (670) 664-2216 no later than five (5) calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked, **"ITB16-HSEM-075"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan no later than **1:00 p.m. local time March 28, 2016.**

Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **1:00 p.m. local time, March 28, 2016** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-155, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 05, 2016** and the bid documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill no later than **March 28, 2016.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be caused for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan at **1:00 p.m. local time, April 13, 2016.** However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **1:00 p.m. local time, on March 28, 2016.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certificate (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contract shall submit:

a. A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b. Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligation) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1. Cash
2. US Gov't. Securities
3. Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4. Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5. Irrevocable Letter of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Sixty (60) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the standard Specification for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway Projects, FP-03

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
Special Assistant
Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS

DPW-16-IFB-004

Renovation of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Community Guidance Center Main Office Building

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **the Renovation of the CHCC Community Guidance Center Main Office Building,** Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **February 24, 2016** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **March 11, 2016, 9:00 a.m. local time** at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **March 15, 2016** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-16-IFB-004"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, March 29, 2016**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, March 29, 2016**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 29, 2016** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **April 06, 2016**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, April 08, 2016.** However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m. local time, on March 29, 2016**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Sixty (60) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred Fifty (US$150.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

/s/ ESTHER L. MUNA
Chief Executive Officer, CHCC

March is Dev't Disabilities and Employment Awareness Month

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres proclaimed March as "Development Disabilities and Employment Awareness Month" to recognize that local communities are stronger when "everyone participates." Torres encourages people to get to know someone with a disability, recognize their ability at work, and see what she or he has to offer.

Torres attended a conference of the CNMI's Disability Network to sign the proclamation yesterday morning and called people with disabilities one of the most overlooked work forces in the community.

The proclamation says the theme for the awareness month is "Ability at Work."

The CNMI Council on Development Disabilities, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Disability Network invites the community to "consider the true meaning" of the this month's theme.

"'Ability at work' encourages people to understand that when people with disabilities are welcomed into local neighborhoods, workplaces, houses of worship, and schools everyone wins," the proclamation states.

The proclamation urges the employment of qualified individuals with disabilities, maximize opportunities for skills training, break down barrier that prevent integration and full inclusion, and embrace the talents people with disabilities bring to the table. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres on Monday declared March as "Developmental Disabilities and Employment Awareness Month" at a conference of the CNMI's Disability Network Partners.

2016 Developmental Disabilities and Employment Awareness Month
"Ability at Work" is the theme for Developmental Disabilities and Employment Awareness Month 2016. The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and our partners in the Disability Network celebrate Developmental Disabilities and Employment Awareness Month this March, and invite you to consider the true meaning of this year's theme, "Ability at Work!"
Statewide, and across the nation, organizations devoted to serving individuals with developmental disabilities are planning special events in March to raise public awareness of the many abilities people have, regardless of disability. "Ability at Work" encourages people to understand that when people with disabilities are welcomed into local neighborhoods, workplaces, houses of worship, and schools everyone wins. This is a time when disability organizations in the United States and its territories focus on encouraging the public to better understand the individuals that they serve.

MVA repairs Beach Pathway lights

As its latest destination enhancement project, the Marianas Visitors Authority has started repairs on the Saipan Beach Pathway lighting, which have been inoperable for a number of years. Once completed, the repairs will allow the local community and visitors to more safely utilize the pathway after dark for exercise and recreation.

The project includes inventory and repair or replacement of all walkway lights, lighting closets, and bollard lights and is scheduled to be completed by August. However, the MVA is also investigating the possibility of funding from the Federal of Emergency and Management Agency to repair structural portions of the pathway damaged by Typhoon Soudelor, which may extend the project beyond August.

"Using the Saipan Beach Pathway along our beautiful western lagoon is an refreshing experience enjoyed by both locals and visitors, which is why we have undertaken this re-energizing project," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "Once completed, this project will allow the pathway to be enjoyed more safely into the evening hours, as well."

The project is funded by the MVA and contracted by the Department of Public Works. It is projected to cost $684,000, as much of the lighting needs to be replaced, repaired, or upgraded after years of unused.

"In the interest of cost-savings, the new lighting will be LED and there will also be a new digital timer switch to turn off the lights at a certain time," said Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "However, keeping the lights on will be one way to deter the criminal activity that caused the lights to be unusable in the first place, so this will be a decision for the responsible government entity we turn over the project. We ask all community members, walkers, and drivers, to help keep the project on-track and the lighting operational thereafter by looking for and reporting any suspicious activity there in the evenings. This lighting will benefit the community, so the community has a stake in protecting it."

In celebration of the MVA's 40thanniversary this year, the completion of the re-lighting of the Saipan Beach Pathway will be celebrated later this year with an evening Ayuda Fun Run supporting a local non-profit. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Workers prepare replacement parts for the Saipan Beach Pathway lighting, a destination enhancement project undertaken by the Marianas Visitor Authority and the Department of Public Works.

MANGO to offer 2-day non-profit management training

The Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations, Inc. is pleased to invite all non-profit organizations in the CNMI to register for the two-day Non-Profit Management Training by the deadline of Friday, March 10, 2016.

The Non-Profit Management Training is the latest series of capacity building being made available by MANGO, the umbrella organization for all NMI non-profits, in partnership with OMHRC (Office of Minority Health & Resources Center) based in San Francisco, CA and headquartered in Washington, D.C.

Seating is limited to the first 30 registered participants. Completed registration forms must be submitted no later than Friday, March 10, 2016, and emailed to: ayudanet1@ayuda-cnmi.org.

The training will be held over two days, Monday and Tuesday, March 14-15, 2016, at the Kanoa Resort, from 8:30am to 4pm. MANGO was chartered and licensed by the CNMI Corporate Registrar in December 2010, and is the umbrella entity for all NGOs in the NMI and is an associate member of the regional Pacific Coalition. The Office of Minority Health was created in 1986, and was reauthorized by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2010. The mission of the Office of Minority Health is to improve the health of racial and ethnic minority populations through the development of health policies and programs that will eliminate health disparities in response to the Heckler Report. The Office of Minority Health Resource Center was created in 1987. It is the nation's largest repository of information on health disparities issues. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-DFEMS-068

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 05, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF 140 COMPLETE SETS OF BRAND NEW 2015 MODEL YEAR FIREFIGHTER TURN-OUT GEAR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA
COMMISSIONER OF DFEMS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-DLNR/DFW-081

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 23, 2016 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A JETSKI FOR THE DLNR – DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RICHARD B. SEMAN
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-HSEM-080

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 23, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION WITH TESTING AND TRAINING OF LASERFISCHE RIO SOFTWARE FOR THE HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HSEM

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP16-BECQ/DCRM-058

E-BID IS AUTHORIZED ON THIS RFP AND MUST BE SENT TO: procurement@pticom.com NO LATER THAN 10:00 A.M., CHAMORRO STANDARD TIME, UTC +10 HOURS BY MARCH 23, 2016

"2016 SAIPAN LAGOON USE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE AND REVISION A PROJECT UNDER THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT"

The **Scope of Work** is available on or after **February 24, 2016** from the BECQ office or by e-mail request to Rebecca Skeele at skeele.crm@gmail.com

Questions regarding this project can be made to Rebecca Skeele by phone (670) 664-8313, or by email at skeele.crm@gmail.com no later than the close of business, **March 14, 2016,** Chamorro Standard Time, UTC +10 hours (email is preferred). Responses to questions shall be shared with all prospective proposers.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the CNMI. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP16-BECQ/DCRM-070

E-BID IS AUTHORIZED ON THIS RFP AND MUST BE SENT TO procurement@pticom.com NO LATER THAN 10:00 A.M., CHAMORRO STANDARD TIME, UTC +10 HOURS BY APRIL 06, 2016

"GARAPAN FIELD SURVEILLANCE PROJECT FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **MARCH 08, 2016** AT THE BECQ OFFICE LOCATED AT THE GUALO RAI CENTER BUILDING, ON CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN OR ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **k.graziano.becq@gmail.com** DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MAY BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO MS. KATIE GRAZIANO, (670) 664-8531 OR BY EMAIL AT k.graziano.becq@gmail.com NO LATER THAN THE **CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MARCH 29, 2016.** RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WILL ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

CARE asks SNILD's help for Soudelor recovery efforts

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts on Monday appealed to members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for help in supporting their project of building typhoon-proof homes for Saipan families that still have unmet housing needs, more than seven months after Typhoon Soudelor pummeled the island.

CARE is asking SNILD for $250,000, which is part of the total request of up to $5 million that they stated in a letter sent last Feb. 18. The $5 million is part of a multi-agency, two-year plan to finance repairs and rebuilding for families with still unmet housing needs.

CARE director Jenny Hegland made the presentation to SNILD members, led by chair Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), informing the body on the status of their work in helping all affected families recover from the disastrous typhoon.

She was accompanied by CARE president Alex Sablan, while CARE vice president Lauri Ogumoro, secretary John Hirsch, treasurer Shelane Borja, CARE construction committee chair Steve Jang, some of the volunteers and survivors, and American Red Cross disaster case managers were also present.

Reps. Blas Jonathan Attao (Ind-Saipan), Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan), Felicidad T. Ogumoro (R-Saipan), Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), Vinson E. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Francis S. Taimano (Ind-Saipan), Ramon A. Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), and Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) were the other SNILD members present.

The $250,000 would ensure CARE that they could get the services pledged by the Mennonite Disaster Services, World Renes, and AmeriCorps VISTA positions.

Hegland said more than seven months have passed, but there are still families living in emergency tents with most of them still waiting for the process of their appeals to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. "Many of these families simply have nowhere else to turn for help."

Data collected by case managers showed that 477 or 91 percent of 524 households with unmet housing needs have a family member that is elderly, under 3 years old, with immediate medical needs, and their income is below the poverty line.

"CARE has done everything to help these families. FEMA assisted but there are a lot more that needs help, especially people who are not covered because of their status," added Alex Sablan. "These are people who are contributing to the community. People who have also helped us grow."

"Sixty-six percent are non-citizens, they are not of Northern Mariana Islands Descent. CARE tried every effort just to help them and we exhausted everything. That's why we are requesting SNILD for help," added Sablan.

JON PEREZ

Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts president Alex Sablan, left, and director Jenny Hegland, right, listen to Kagman High School student Karen Laoyan as she reads her essay, experiencing and surviving Typhoon Soudelor, to members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation on Monday at the House of Representatives chamber on Capital Hill.

Veterans invited to a Fireside Chat on Sunday

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang and the Northern Marianas Humanities Council are inviting CNMI veterans to participate in a "Fireside Chat" to be held at the Carolinian Utt on Sunday, March 13, beginning at 6pm.

This event will allow younger veterans to meet and share experiences with older veterans in an enjoyable and informal setting.

In addition to sharing experiences, participating veterans will be provided with an overview of services and benefits to which they are entitled.

Veterans will also be invited to participate in a related event that will allow them to relate their individual experiences through stories and photos.

Selected stories and photos will be displayed in a traveling exhibit to be launched on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2016.

For more information about the Fireside Chat, contact Humanities Council program officer Eulalia V. Arriola at 235-4785. ***(PR)***

MARIANAS
VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

■ MVA-RFP-16-2334 CHINA
■ MVA-RFP-16-2335 KOREA/TAIWAN & RUSSIA
■ MVA-RFP-16-2336 JAPAN

For: Representation, Promotion and Public Relations Services for the ■ China Market, and/or the ■ Korea/Taiwan & Russia Market and/or the ■ Japan Market. Proposers may choose to respond to one, two or all three proposal territories.

Opening Date: February 17, 2016 Time: 8:00 a.m.
Closing Date: April 15, 2016 Time: 3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to: The Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950
USA

The Marianas Visitors Authority ("MVA") seeks to hire a contractor or contractors to provide marketing, internet, and public relations services to the MVA and assist the MVA with its mandate to promote tourism to the Northern Mariana Islands from the ■ Japanese market, the ■ Chinese market and the ■ Korea/Taiwan & Russia markets. These 3 contracts will each be for an initial two-year period, commencing on October 1, 2016, with an option to renew for one (1) additional two (2) year period and one (1) additional one (1) year period (up to 5 total years).

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the Marianas Visitors Authority office between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by emailing the **MVA** at jtorres@mymarianas.com or by fax to 1-670-664-3237. RFP is available at www.mymarianas.com.

Gratuities, kickbacks, and contingent fees are prohibited by the laws of the Northern Mariana Islands. NMIAC §§ 90-20-120, 90-20-125.

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson
MVA Board of Directors

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for a limited term position of:

DATA SYSTEMS ANALYST
Office of the Clerk of Court
Superior Court
SAIPAN

DUTIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties:

- Performs the full range of data entry and database contents review for pre- and post-judgment services in civil, criminal, traffic, small claims, and family court dockets;
- Compiles data from various sources including court databases, periodic reports, surveys, and performance tool reviews from the Judges' chambers, Family Court Division, Administrative Support Units, the Marshal Service Division, and the Offices of the Clerks of Court and Adult Probation Supervision;
- Reviews data compilation reports and trends and assists with the determination of analysis and interpretation outcomes;
- Performs credibility reviews to assess data quality, verification and update, including review of standard data audit components like computer entry processes, user practices, reporting templates, screen formats, and initial source verification documents;
- Identifies, interprets, and reports patterns and trends from data collection and/or audits;
- Responds to general inquiries regarding data verification and reporting for the Superior Court and assist with data integration processes with affected divisions or authorized agencies;
- Coordinates and assists the Clerk of Court with special projects requiring court statistics or reports;
- Adheres to and complies with all promulgated policies, standards, and codes of ethical conduct; and
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: The Data Systems Analyst should have an associate's degree from an accredited U.S. university or college or 2 years of equivalent experience. The incumbent must also have at least four (4) years experience in the legal or administrative field. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary range will be $30,000 - $35,000 annually; however will be paid only for a term actually worked through September 30, 2016.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at OPM offices in the CNMI, the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702

This job announcement will remain open until April 1, 2016. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Clinton supports Native Hawaiian self-determination

HONOLULU, Hawaii—In a campaign release yesterday, former secretary of state Hillary Clinton issued a statement of support for Native Hawaiian self-determination. The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) board of directors and its President reacted with enthusiasm.

"This is truly amazing! The former secretary's acknowledgement of the unique opportunities for Hawaii, and for Native Hawaiians in bringing solutions to our communities is so refreshing," said Michelle Kauhane, CNHA president. "As a strong presidential candidate, her awareness of and support of self-determination is a clear sign that Secretary Clinton gets that Native Hawaiians are on the move to make life better for our families, and frankly for all of Hawaii."

Over the years, CNHA has worked with Sen. Daniel Akaka and President Obama to advance good policies to revitalize the Hawaiian language, to dedicate resources to charter schools and education, on affordable housing solutions, and economic opportunities to create jobs on or near Hawaiian Home Lands across the state.

"One of the most powerful solutions we can have, is taking on our *kuleana* for our communities," Kauhane added. "That's what self-determination is all about!"

Kauhane was one of over 100 Native Hawaiians that spent a month working on the drafting of a Native Hawaiian constitution, with dual citizenship, and a pathway to provide community based solutions in every way.

"It was one of the most challenging, emotional and liberating experiences I have had," she said. "The diversity in our community is amazing, and yes, sometimes the passion overflows, but the Na'i Aupuni Aha was a life changing event, that gives our children hope."

Kauhane cited the impact to all of Hawaii, in saying "A fully functioning relationship with the federal government and our state government brings so much to the table—we will be at the table, working together to advance the solutions we know Hawaii needs, whether that's economic stability, renewable energy, improved educational systems, or addressing homelessness. Our community is ready, is ready to do the work, and to help Hawaii and our people move forward."

CNHA, founded in 2001 is one of the largest coalition of leaders working on the cultural, economic, political and community development of Native Hawaiians. For more information visit www.hawaiiancouncil.org. ***(PR)***

FOA invites you to enjoy Magical Music of Roman Rudnytsky

The Friends of the Arts welcomes renowned classical pianist Roman Rudnytsky back to Saipan for another visit.

FOA will be sponsoring two special concerts next week with Rudnytsky—a rare opportunity to listen to classical music, played by an internationally renowned pianist.

Rudnytsky will be playing in concert Tuesday and Friday next week, March 15 and 18, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. All programs are open to the public at the cost of $8 for adults and $5 for students. Half of the proceeds will be presented to the CNMI's Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands scholarship program.

The two programs will include differing selections each night from such classical masters as Chopin, Brahms, Haydn, Gershwin, Mozart, Beethoven, Debussy, Liszt, Rachmaninoff, and other musical greats, performed by a modern day master. Each concert will have different selections of music. The award-winning Marianas High School Glee Club, Rhythm 'N Harmony, will open the Tuesday and Friday programs.

Rudnytsky is an internationally active concert pianist of Ukrainian background whose frequent performances take him all over the world—to every continent and places in-between. In addition to performances in capital cities and important musical centers, he often plays in places away from the musical mainstream, bringing the world and pleasure of classical music to audiences which seldom experience this type of music in live performance. He has received much acclaim in the world's press and many repeat invitations.

A graduate of the famous Julliard School in New York, he also did additional studies at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Maryland and at master classes in Austria (the "Mozarteum") and Italy.

Since 1972, Rudnytsky has been a member of the piano faculty of the Dana School of Music at Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio. He is a recipient of that institution's "Distinguished Professor Award" in recognition of his concert activities. He previously served on the piano faculties of the Indiana University School of Music (Bloomington, Indiana) and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory, in addition to being "Artist-in-Residence" at two Australian universities.

During his two-week visit to Saipan, he will travel to many of the CNMI schools, playing and discussing music with the students. This is Rudnytsky's seventh trip to the CNMI. Rudnytsky travels at his own expense and donates his time to the community. FOA, with the help of sponsors from the community, has hosted Rudnytsky's stay.

FOA would like to thank the generous sponsors who make this visit possible: Bridge Capital, IT&E, Paradise Island Animal Hospital, Atkins-Kroll Toyota, Hertz Car Rental, Brabu Pharmacy, Triple J Saipan, PHI Pharmacy, Keynote School of Music, Hardt Eye Clinic, CTSI Logistics, J's Restaurant, Canton Chinese Restaurant, Café at the Park, and HR Support, CNMI. Without their assistance events such as this would not be possible.

FOA invites the community to come and enjoy this special opportunity and an evening of Magical Music. ***(PR)***

2016 MISS CNMI LIBERATION QUEEN PAGEANT

Deadline for contestants fast approaching

There are less than five days left for interested individuals to apply to compete in the 2016 Miss CNMI Liberation Queen Pageant. The Liberation Day Committee calls for village candidates, school representative, non-profit organization, and ethnic representative to join the competition.

According to Royal Court chair Rose Ada-Hocog, the Liberation Day Committee will cover the cost for the gowns and the hair and makeup of the participants. In addition, "the contestants will be given 10 percent of their gross ticket sales.

The Saipan Mayor's Office, Skywalker Communications Group, and the Liberation Day Committee encourage interested participants to pick up an application at the Saipan Mayor's office and submit them before the office closes at 4pm on March 12, 2016, or request for an electronic copy of the application via email.

In other news, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang announced last Monday that "Our Islands, Our Heritage" by Daisy Demapan is the winning theme for this year's event, thus setting the theme for the 71st anniversary and commemoration of the release of the people living on Saipan from Camp Susupe and Camp Chalan Kanoa and wrapping up the kick-off phase for the upcoming, much anticipated summer festivities.

The winning theme will direct the planning and organizing of the Liberation festival activities to include the recruitment strategy for the 2016 Miss CNMI Liberation contestants.

"In line with the winning theme, we are reintroducing the Village Candidate Campaign as practiced in the past," said Ada-Hocog.

In the village candidate aspect, members of each village are encouraged to nominate candidate(s) and endorse them as representative for their village community. The Village Candidate Campaign will be in addition to the school representative, non-profit organization, and ethnic representative campaign, a strategy based on the 2015-2016 theme, "Peace In Diversity."

The village candidate campaign is not exclusive to the island of Saipan. The Liberation Day Committee and the Royal Court Subcommittee are reaching out to all the municipalities in the CNMI. Candidates from some of the villages on Saipan have submitted applications. However, the Liberation Day Committee would like to encourage more young ladies to participate. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 1st birthday to our godson "JunJun" Ilo Kalen. May God bless you on your special day boy and with many more years to come. We love you! Hugs and kisses with much love from Niña, Niño, and Izaiah Blaze.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 8, 2000

Guest workers pitch in $7 million to gov't coffers every year

Annual fees collected from companies for each nonresident worker they employ inject at least $7 million in direct additional revenue to the CNMI government every year, according to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. Mr. Tenorio said the additional revenue from the schedule of fees charged among businesses for each foreign worker helps strengthen the local economy which has grown to be private-sector fortified and less dependent from federal funding. At present, employers pay a total of $270 each year for every nonresident worker they hire. Of the amount, $225 is for nonresident worker application fee, $20 for health certificate, and another $25 for the nonresident worker or alien card.

Anti-smoking campaign targets high school students

Three government agencies are now laying the groundwork for a memorandum of understanding that will pave the way for a stepped up anti-smoking campaign which targets public and private high school students. Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division Director Andrew Salas said the Department of Public Health is leading the project in partnership with the public safety and the commerce departments. According to Mr. Salas, the MOU is expected to be signed soon to allow anti-smoking advocates conduct promotional campaign on the health risks posed by tobacco use and abuse before the students leave for the summer vacation. He disclosed that the project will utilize different methods of presentation like the use of video and other visual aids in order to effectively instill the harm of tobacco use in the minds of both junior and senior high school students.

March 8, 2001

CPA hopes to tap other carriers to serve Taipei

The Northern Marianas will lose a monthly average of 567 visitors as a result of Mandarin Airlines' decision to temporarily suspend its Taiwan-Saipan flights beginning March 24. However, the Commonwealth Ports Authority will keep its doors open to any airline companies that may be willing to serve the route, said Executive Director Carlos H. Salas. Mr. Salas said the suspension of flights was more of a by-product of the ongoing economic slowdown in Taiwan. He added that not even pledges of intensified tourism promotions from the CNMI government could make Mandarin Air change its mind. The Northern Marianas is projected to lose more than 1,700 visitors from Taiwan between March 24 and June, or during the period which Mandarin Air would stop flying the Saipan-Taipei route.

Increased lobby efforts to repeal 3-year limit urged

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday urged its members to enforce major lobbying strategy at the Legislature to show support for the elimination of the three-year limit stay for nonresident workers. He said the time has come for businessmen to march up to the Legislature, make their voices heard to press CNMI legislators immediately reach a firm decision. This, even as the Legislature has started moving towards the revisions, if not outright repeal, of Public Law 11-69 that requires guest workers to leave the Commonwealth after three consecutive years of employment. In an interview yesterday, Sen. Adriano Joaquin disclosed the upper chamber will deliberate on House Bill 12-317 which repeals the three-year limit law on its entirety.

March 8, 2006

CPA to spend $1.1M for incinerators

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is spending a total of $1.1 million to acquire a new airport incinerator and repair an existing one. CPA executive director Lee Cabrera said the acquisition of a new incinerator would cost some $500,000. The rest of the funds will be spent for the building renovation to comply with environmental regulations and the repair of the old incinerator, which had been cited by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for noncompliance. Meantime, Cabrera said that half of the funding for the purchase of the new incinerator is a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior.

PSS still hopeful on Compact Impact

Commissioner of Education Rita H. Inos said the Public School System is still hopeful it would receive a reasonable share of the $5.2 million Compact Impact Fund awarded to the CNMI government annually by the Department of Interior.

Inos, whose services has been extended for another school year, said she is confident the government would still follow through on its original promise to earmark the lion's share of the monies to education. She said the money would go a long way toward addressing the immediate needs of PSS such as school repairs and maintenance, among others.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 16-021

Opening Date: Friday, February 26, 2016
Closing Date: Until Filled

Deputy Executive Director
(Water & Wastewater)

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") is seeking for a qualified Deputy Executive Director ("DED"). CUC is a public utility corporation located on the island of Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI")—a United States territory in the northwestern Pacific Ocean.

The CNMI is a tropical paradise of fourteen islands. In the CNMI you can escape to a place of magnificent beaches and crystal clear aqua waters, and rich history. Saipan offers year-round outdoor activities, world class diving and golfing, international shopping, a range of ethnic restaurants and a cacophony of indigenous and international cultures.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITY OFFERED:
Reporting directly to CUC's Executive Director or designee, the Deputy Executive Director ("DED") fills a position required by the Stipulated Order ("SO") of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case No. CV 08-0051.

- Primarily responsible for overseeing, all drinking water and wastewater operations and compliance activities and deliverables, on a daily basis, as required by the Stipulated Order. Responsible for maintaining regular contact with EPA staff regarding CWA and SDWA compliance issues. Has authority to make decisions for management and operations of the drinking water and wastewater systems.
- Supervises staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- Provides staff assistance to the Executive Director to include: coordinating activities between CUC and outside organizations and agencies; researching and preparing recommendations on operational directives; and, preparing and presenting staff reports.
- Assumes full management responsibility over divisions as delegated by the Executive Director. Plans, directs and coordinates work of divisions through department heads by meeting with management to identify, prioritize and resolve problems.
- Directs and implements maintenance plans; evaluates maintenance programs to ensure maintenance standards are enforced.
- Participates on a variety of boards and committees and attends a wide variety of management meetings.
- Serves as the Executive Director when the Executive Director is out of the CNMI.
- Performs short and long-range strategic planning.
- Other duties of a similar nature or level as assigned or required.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:
Successful candidates for CUC's Deputy Executive Director must have the following:

- Education:
  - Master's degree in management, engineering, finance or public administration, "OR", in the alternative, a bachelor's degree in engineering "and" registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in either the civil, mechanical, or electrical branch. [With your cover letter or resume, please provide a copy or verification of your education and/or registration.]
- Experience:
  - Senior management experience of at least ten (10) years desired in similar wastewater and drinking water utility (combined utility is preferred), with similar or greater capital and operating budgets, capital improvement projects, human resources needs, utility financing issues, operation and maintenance training, and implementation needs. [With your cover letter or resume, please provide information supporting your professional background and work assignments showing senior management experience. Please cite duration, responsibility level, duties, position, and other relevant experience substantiating senior management experience.]
- Certification and Licensing:
  - A Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's Certificate is desired, but not mandatory.
  - Ability to obtain and maintain a CNMI driver's license of the appropriate class upon hire is required.
- Must demonstrate:
  - Proven management and communications skills;
  - Demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff;
  - Experience with managing major water and wastewater systems during periods of planning, design, and construction;
  - Experience with water and wastewater systems, user fee system development, bond funding, staff training and development, and federal drinking water and wastewater requirements.
  - Experience with user fee system development and bond funding is desired, but not mandatory.
- Knowledge of:
  - Leadership principles;
  - Supervisory principles;
  - Strategic planning principles;
  - Budgetary principles;
  - Project management principles;
  - Applicable laws, rules and regulations.
- Skill in:
  - Monitoring and evaluating staff;
  - Prioritizing and assigning work to staff;
  - Preparing and administering budgets;
  - Developing and administering strategic plans;
  - Managing large, complex projects;
  - Giving presentations;
  - Preparing technical reports;
  - Using computers and related software applications;
  - Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

SALARY INFORMATION: Based on credentials and specialized experience as a water and wastewater utility senior manager (executive) in a U.S. state, U.S. territory, U.S. commonwealth, and/or the District of Columbia.

POSITION: One (1).

CONTRACT: Two-year; subject to renewal.

RELOCATION EXPENSES: If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed $5,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed $5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Receipts will be required for justification. Other conditions may be applicable.

SUBMISSION PROCESS: These applicants are welcomed and encouraged to contact Human Resources to confirm such inclusion and/or to update their submission. All applicants are should review the minimum requirements and present an application package that clearly addresses such requirements. Applicants are asked to please submit (1) a cover letter, (2) a resume, (3) a list of references, and (4) a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

1. United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail*:

   Human Resource Office
   Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
   P. O. Box 501220
   Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA

   *If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" email "or" drop off your package.

2. Fax: 670-235-5131
3. Email: employment.applications@cucgov.org
4. Drop Off: Drop off your package at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or Rota Administration Office.

POLICIES: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 16-020

Opening Date: Friday, February 26, 2016
Closing Date: Until Filled

Executive Director

Duties: Work under the direct supervision of the Board of Directors or his/her designee. Supervises staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Assumes full management responsibility for all of CUC's divisions and services. Directs and oversees the strategic planning, development and implementation of programs and services; directs operations within financial constraints and in accordance with CUC policies, regulations, and under the direction of the Board. Monitors and evaluates efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery methods and processes; assesses and monitors service delivery levels; identifies opportunities, weaknesses and strengths of divisions; directs the implementation of changes. Plans, directs and coordinates work of divisions through the upper management team by meeting with management to identify, prioritize and resolve problems. Manages the development and implementation of goals, objectives, missions, policies, priorities and allocations of resources. Participates on a variety of board and committees and attends a wide variety of management meetings. Performs short and long-range strategic planning. Prepares and submits annual budget recommendations and financial analysis for Board approval; implements, communicates and administers approved budget; ensures fiscal compliance. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION(S) : **Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : Based on credentials and specialized experience as a utility executive in a U.S. state, U.S. territory, U.S. commonwealth, and/or the District of Columbia.
CONTRACT : Two-year, subject to renewal.
POSITION(S) : One (1).

Minimum Requirements:
Successful candidates for CUC's Executive Director must have the following:

- Education or Education/License Combination:
  - Master's degree in management, engineering, finance, or public administration, "OR", in the alternative, a bachelor's degree in engineering and registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in either the civil, mechanical, or electrical branch;
- Experience:
  - Senior management experience of at least ten (10) years in a similar wastewater, drinking water, and/or power utility (preferably combined utility), with similar or greater capital and operating budgets, capital improvement projects, human resource needs, utility financing issues, operation and maintenance training and implementation needs.
  - In addition, the Executive Director (ED) shall demonstrated the following: Proven management and communication skills;
  - Demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff;
  - Experience with managing major drinking water and wastewater systems during periods of planning, design, and construction; and Experience with drinking water and wastewater systems; user fee system development; bond funding; staff training and development; and federal drinking water and wastewater requirements.
- Knowledge of:
  - Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances;
  - Advanced managerial principles, practices and techniques;
  - Leadership principles;
  - Utility service administration principles and practices;
  - Financial management and forecasting principles;
  - Strategy development principles and procedures;
  - Contract management principles;
  - Risk management principles;
  - Customer service principles;
  - Project management principles;
  - Modern office technology.
- Skill in:
  - Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards;
  - Managing, monitoring, and evaluating subordinates;
  - Providing organizational leadership and administration;
  - Developing and executing strategic plans, programs, and policies;
  - Planning and oversight of organizational programs and functions;
  - Providing strategic and visionary thinking;
  - Providing short and long-range planning, development and implementation;
  - Forecasting, developing and administering organization budget;
  - Critical thinking and independent decision making;
  - Providing legal, policy and contractual compliance oversight;
  - Serving as organization representative to management, the Board and external stakeholders;
  - Preparing and delivering public presentations;
  - Providing fiscally sound decision making;
  - Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications;
  - Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.
- Driver's License:
  - Must have a CNMI driver's license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction.

RELOCATION EXPENSES: If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed $5,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed $5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Receipts will be required for justification. Other conditions may be applicable.

SUBMISSION PROCESS: To apply, please submit a resume, cover letter, a list of references, and a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

1. United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail*:

   Human Resource Office
   Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
   P. O. Box 501220
   Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA

   *If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" email "or" drop off your package.

2. Fax: 670-235-5131
3. Drop Off:

   Drop off your package at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or Rota Administration Office.

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It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

China is key to North Korea sanctions

Unlike Iran, North Korea has been impervious to international efforts to force it to forswear the use of nuclear weapons. But new sanctions approved by the United Nations Security Council last week offer at least the possibility of altering North Korea's behavior. Much will depend on whether China, North Korea's patron, enabler and largest trading partner, follows the letter and spirit of the resolution it supported.

The measure was prompted by North Korea's test in January of what it characterized as a hydrogen bomb, as well as repeated missile test launches. But North Korean defiance of the international community stretches back years. Neither previous sanctions nor diplomacy have induced the reclusive regime in Pyongyang to end its nuclear program.

The new resolution, approved after lengthy negotiations between Chinese and U.S. diplomats, significantly expands sanctions against North Korean individuals and entities involved with the insular country's nuclear weapons program. It also requires the inspection of cargo entering or leaving North Korea and bars the importation of aviation fuel. An arms embargo is expanded to include light weapons, and North Korea is instructed not to use ballistic missiles even to launch non-military satellites.

But even as it strengthens sanctions, the resolution leaves their enforcement to U.N. members. As a practical matter, that means North Korea will feel the pressure only if China takes its responsibilities seriously, rather than circumventing the sanctions on the pretext of avoiding "adverse humanitarian consequences."

Beijing must recognize that anxiety about North Korea's intentions threatens a nuclear arms race not just on the Korean peninsula but in the entire region. It also should realize that if it doesn't put meaningful pressure on North Korea, the U.S. may go forward with a high-altitude missile defense system in South Korea that China sees as a threat to its own arsenal. However justified it might be, a strengthening of South Korea's defenses would make it even less likely that there would be another round of negotiations involving the two Koreas, the U.S. China, Russia and Japan. The last version of such talks collapsed in 2009.

China may not be able to dictate policy to North Korea's unpredictable leader Kim Jong Un. But it provides a lifeline to him and his inner circle and props up the country's infrastructure. If it's serious of about calming tensions on the Korean peninsula, it will use that considerable influence.

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IT LOOKS SEWN UP, BUT WE SHOULDN'T RELAX! HE'S CLOSE BEHIND AND COULD STILL SURPRISE US!
SUPER TUESDAY RESULTS
KEVIN SIERS ©2016 CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
SUPER TUESDAY RESULTS
I KNOW. HE MAKES ME MISS BERNIE SANDERS...
FBI
CLINTON E-MAIL FILES

Visitors to Sa'i'pan

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

The written history of Saipan is not a long one. Neglected by Spain as an adjunct to the New Manila and refused ownership by the United States after it bought Guam, ending up in Seig Heil to the Germans before the Nazis took over the salutation; the rest of the Marianas were later taken over by Japan after WWI when Nippon occupied islands north of the equator, save the Hawaiian Islands and Guam, and the rest, occupied by the Union Jack. After WWII, former Nippon territories came under the trusteeship of the United States.

So prior to Spain, it was just a stopping ground for the birds to chirp at Satawal, Ulithi, and Wolei single proa outriggers on their way up to the northern islands all the way to Bonin and Japan.

There is a sense in which "indigene" is a short category for Saipan residents, referring to Chamorros who were moved to and fro by Spain, and the Carolinians invited to sail up to Tanapag after a typhoon devastated the islands of Wolei and others. Legally, it includes those who were residents when the Constitution was approved, more so, when Reagan declared CNMI residents citizens of the U.S.

We are practically all visitors to Saipan. Unlike the Hawaiians who were divested of their land, the wrong was rectified in making it into law that only indigenes can own land in the CNMI, which again begged the question as to who is an indigene when everyone is really a visitor. The blood formula of 12.5 percent is not valid since that is not a constitutional provision on land ownership within the laws of the United States. It only applies temporarily as per Covenant arrangements. Even that is dubious.

Our reflection is not on the indigene; it is on the visitor. JFK was kind when he referred to the United States as a nation of immigrants. The Mongols of earlier migration across the Bering Straits to the Americas who are now native, were also visitors, albeit, earlier. The United States is one nation united in the diversity of its immigrants, welcomed by the bison and the hummingbird. The progeny out of Mt. Caucasus holds the cultural and racial advantage but that is changing rapidly. Brown bread after all is healthier and richer, and it comes in many layers of light and darkness.

Estimates in 2010 of the CNMI demographic have Asians outnumber Pacific Islanders 5 to 3.5. Of the Asians, the Filipino is slightly over 35 percent of total, while the Chamorro among the Pacific Islanders is short of 24 percent. The other predominant Asians are Chinese and Koreans; of the Pacific Islanders, Carolinians are 4.6 percent, 6.4 percent is divided by Polynesian, Melanesian, and other Micronesian islanders. Mix races are 12.6 percent and the rest are spattering from other places in the world.

So the category of indigene vs. visitors is an artificial one, though legally, it isn't!

In this age of The Donald, a national defensiveness is abroad. The former Republican Arizona Governor Jan Brewer is the third governor (Christie of New Jersey and LePage of Maine) to endorse The Donald because "he will secure our borders, defend our workers and protect our sovereignty." Senator Jeff Session of Alabama just joined the bandwagon.

While living in Canada, crossing the border was a 15-minute ritual; in Texas, six hours from Mexico. Integrity of border depends on who is on the other side, and who is crossing. With the Canucks, we don't worry much; with the TexMex and their Latino cousins across the border, we build a wall. The GOP are out-conservative-ing each other on who will be most effective to contain illegal immigrants. The Donald is vocally on the lead, much to the consternation of GOP leaders who wants the Party elected not on exploiting fear but on what the Grand Ol' Party stands for.

"Defend workers." Which ones? The southern borders attract seasonal workers that we exploit with low wages. The "illegal" workers are the desired in agriculture; they will take anything you pay them without a word. "Defending workers" is better stated as "keeping a watch on employers closely."

"Protect our sovereignty." Well, it goes back to the previous reflection on immigrants. The United States still likes to remain in the original thirteen colonies. The European mindset predominates (Pilgrims, Puritans, and Jamestown) and has been stuck there since. Established boutique shops market fads and fashion out of the European choices of London, Paris, and Milan. Eighty-one percent of teachers in the U.S. public school system are Caucasians.

Garapan apes the windows on Park Avenue, NYC. On a slight chill, members of the current indigene generation wear their winter wools, using the office air-con for an excuse to salve the magas pride. We march with the fashion beat of NYC, which is followed by Manila and Hong Kong, also, Tokyo, Seoul, and Beijing. At least the last three are in the temperate zone but all five directly influence Saipan's garb and attire.

Which brings us back to the visitors in Sa'i'pan. We all are.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Calm as storm approaches

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

In recent weeks, Guam has seen a beehive of activities from joint military exercises with allied countries like Australia, Philippines, Japan, and others.

Guam would eventually become a stationary carrier loaded with military weaponry to handle the growing regional tension in the South China Sea. China has built vital military equipment on islands outside her economic zone including the Spratlys that sets it up for eventual regional hegemony.

While I still have confidence in the firepower of the U.S. Navy, we can't ignore the fact that China has begun modernizing her warfare weaponry too. I read somewhere concerns that the radar she has installed could knock down communications satellites over the region rendering a total blackout.

Japan recently decided to begin supplying the Philippines with war equipment in what's known as "collective self-defense." The weaponry deal isn't targeted at any particular country. The U.S.-South Korea exercise presumably on how to invade NK's weaponry base was met with ferocious response from up north.

As the tension in the South China Sea escalates, I often quiz what's behind Obama's agenda on global security and of our country. He does everything else that is so far removed from stabilizing the deepening global tension between the Middle East and the Asian regions. U.S. denunciation of Chinese activities reflects the "business as usual" attitude.

Allied countries most likely to adversely suffer economic losses from interference in the most vital sea lane in the South China Sea ought to accommodate more of U.S. needs on land like the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, and others. This should further lessen the need for Marianas land so far away from the sea-lane route. In brief, you can't put off fire from a distance.

Covenant—A Beginning: Some may be disenchanted by the heavy decline of the local economy over the last 20 years. But there's no one else to blame but us for using our outmoded Black and White Television over vision or foresight.

Recalled a plan prepared by the firm Arthur D. Little we tossed out the window complaining there's too much study already. I'm sure too nobody ever read the plan to see what it envisions in economic development to shore up new sources of revenue. Today disoriented and frustrated we complain unsure of our own misgivings as the big bosses engage junketing near and far when the NMI house is burning!

Now, a certain study says the economy has inched some 3 percent upwards. Thanks for the less than encouraging news. But if you really break it down did it improve the wellbeing of our people who have had to endure over 20 years of economic stagnancy?

Reminds me of Mark Twain's famous observation about the three kinds of lies: "Lies, damned lies and statistics." Lest we forget, people could easily digest what figures say quizzing how has it helped their situation!

Remedy of Relationship: Control of immigration was a unique feature of the agreement that should have been guarded Full Square. In fact, it is the most important provision given its direct relationship with efforts to push economic growth and development forward.

It's an issue the elected elite can't afford leaving to apathy and indifference. It must seek to figure out a way to secure practical alternatives that grants the NMI ample room for growth. After all, the federal government has never had a stellar record as a colonial power other than a shift in the way of life emasculating the host from its workable traditional ways to the vicious challenges of modernity. The NMI ignoring it isn't the answer either!

The combined legislative committees on federal relations needs to get on the ball on this issue before the NMI sinks permanently. You need help flexing your muscles?

Trump Phenomenon: Pundits have probed the phenomenon behind Donald Trump's meteoric ascendancy in the GOP's presidential race. I think Editor Emeritus Wesley Prudent of the *Washington Times* nailed it accurately when he said:

"It's about the rage of the little guy, who has worked faithfully in election after election for men who talk bravely with boast and bombast before the election only to slink away like a dog with his tail between his legs when it was time to redeem the talk.

"This time the little guy hears something that sounds authentic. He may be fooled again, but he's got nothing to lose, and he gets a kick out of the discomfort of the elites who never had it so good and thought the good times would roll forever." It's the elite versus the grassroots, no ideology. The diabolical incoherence and looming disintegration in both parties isn't about Trump but the loss of their true north!

Anaguan Excavation: The controversy on the Anaguan excavation started with indecisions by the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (Historic Preservation) on the disposition of two sets of ancestral bones. If anything, it goes to show the lack of competency in the decision-making process that in turn stirred more negative reactions from the indigenous people.

It's the same issue—ancestral bones—so why the two differing decisions that ignores the earlier excavation? I'll salute BSI if it simply steps in and say let's pay for everything and find a place for a combined burial so we do it with dignity followed by a mass of intention. It should wipe out the controversy including bad karma forever more. In turn, it's a full closure!

DCCA/HP's indecisions unjustifiably dragged BSI into the fray. Its only role is to share its findings, period! The explosive expressions from participants were out of place that should have been directed at DCCA/HP. Did the government agencies intervene to quell the anger of the crowd? Perhaps they too were stunned at the explosive reaction the net result of impotence as decision makers!

Adoring wife of president was role that suited Reagan just fine

By CARLA HALL
LOS ANGELES TIMES

When Nancy Reagan became first lady in January 1981, she seemed a relic of a past age—at least to me, a young Washington Post Style section reporter covering her every step and every adoring gaze at her husband, Ronald Reagan, during the inaugural festivities that month. Yes, she had had her own acting career—and kept working to support them as her husband's career waned, as my colleague, Elaine Woo, pointed out in her excellent obituary on Nancy Reagan, who died Sunday.

Her devotion to her husband was unquestioned. But as first lady, she seemed to telegraph that she had finally found her role of a lifetime—adoring wife of the president—and she planned to luxuriate in it. She loved classic designer clothes, counted as her best gal pals the ladies-who-lunch wives of industry titans, and spent $200,000 on new china for the White House. For all of it, she was utterly lambasted by press and pundits. In fact, she took such a public beating, I sometimes felt a tad sorry for her.

When the glamorous Princess Grace tragically died in a car crash, we heard that Nancy would be sent to glittery Monaco to represent the White House at the funeral.

"You know she's dying to go," one reporter said tartly to a group of us. There was a pause.

"Poor Nance," another said with a sympathetic chuckle.

So when she made an appearance in a skit at the venerable Gridiron Club's annual dinner, dressed in goofy old clothes and spoofing herself while singing a parody of "Second Hand Rose," I was impressed. I couldn't imagine having made fun of myself no matter how much other people were making fun of me. Of course, it was a clever White House political calculation—and it showed her to be a savvy political operator. Not for the last time.

She would go on to be excoriated for various other moves. The whole "Just Say No" campaign to get kids off drugs that she launched was well-intentioned but eventually mocked. As Reagan's time in office stretched to a second term, she was demonized for wielding too much power over her husband's staff and him—famously feeding him a line during a press opportunity at the Reagan ranch. And she came in for more criticism when it was discovered she had her own personal astrologer.

Even as Nancy Reagan became more politic, she never quite escaped the image of a first lady as a bit of a class-conscious snob. Jackie Kennedy before her and Michelle Obama after her had closets of designer clothes—and got worshipped as style icons. Both Bush first ladies were traditional wives and mothers who doted on their husbands but were respected for it.

It didn't help that Nancy Reagan was thought of as a distant and diffident mother to her kids—who were grown by the time the Reagans entered the White House. (Wow, she really couldn't catch a break.)

I think, in the end, she was a complicated first lady at a complicated time. No doubt, most, if not all the first ladies after her studied the cautionary tales of her time in the White House.

There's no question that she won respect for her support for her husband as he fell victim to the scourge of Alzheimer's. As far as I'm concerned, her single greatest contribution to the public good was her strong, vocal support for federal funding for stem cell research—which is important to the study of Alzheimer's among other diseases—at a time when President George W. Bush and other conservatives were foolishly opposed to it.

For her to lend the voice of an unassailable conservative to the support of stem cell research was remarkable—and perhaps the most important wielding of her influence ever.

Officer who didn't turn in possible OJ Simpson knife did something worse than commit a crime

By MARIEL GARZA
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Los Angeles police officer who didn't turn in a knife reportedly found at a property once owned by O.J. Simpson did something worse than break the law when he decided to keep it as a souvenir. He violated the trust between the public and those sworn to uphold the laws that protect them.

Los Angeles police officials Friday wouldn't name the officer who held on to the buck knife, or even when or how exactly it was discovered at Simpson's former estate. The former football star was acquitted of stabbing to death his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ron Goldman in 1995. The murder weapon has never been found.

What the officials would say is that the officer, now retired, was working a film shoot across the street from the property and was either off-duty or already retired when a construction worker gave him the knife. This was a good-faith effort by a citizen who uncovered possible evidence in a crime that has never been solved and handed over to someone representing the Los Angeles Police Department (the department allows retired and off-duty police officers to wear their uniforms while moonlighting on film shoots). If you are wearing the uniform, you have an obligation to act accordingly.

LAPD spokesman Capt. Andy Neiman told reporters Friday morning that the officer's excuse was that he thought the case was closed. It's not, though it's true that O.J. Simpson can't be tried again for the murders. Even it if were, that would be no excuse. The search for truth in heinous crimes is never over.

Police are testing the knife now, and it may well turn out to have nothing to do with the crime. It might not have even been O.J. Simpson's knife. That doesn't mitigate the transgression. It's clear that the officer knew the knife held some significance. You don't plan to frame an inanimate object unless it has value.

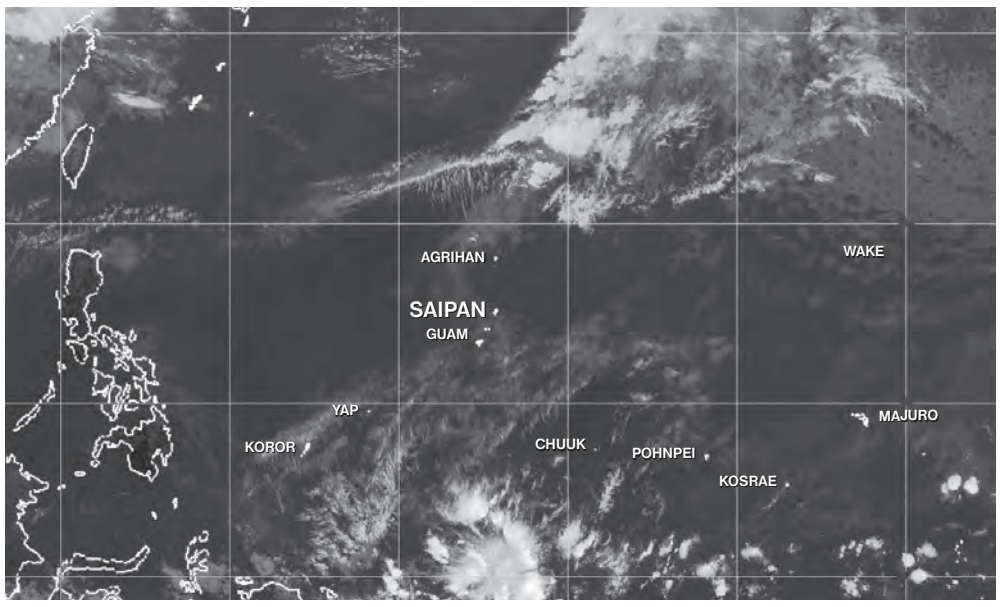
Fortunately, his fellow officer who turned him in knew that the knife might be important and that, even years later, he had a duty to turn it in.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward through 25N147E to beyond 130E at 18N. Scattered showers are found along and up to 100 miles northwest of the front. Converging low-level winds are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the far Northern Mariana Islands within 100 miles of a line from 25N149E to 20N146E to 18N143E. Widespread cloudiness and patchy rain are within an area of unstable flow northeast of the Mariana Islands and north of Wake Island along and north of 20N to beyond 25N from from 146E to the date line. A shear line runs southeastward from 16N143E across Rota to 12N148E then eastward to about 12N162E. Scattered showers are along and up to 75 miles north of the shear line. Another shear line extends southwestward from 12N180E between Majuro and Kwajalein to near Kosrae at 6N166E then westward to near Pohnpei at 8N157E. Scattered showers are along and up to 150 miles northwest of this shear line and in patchy areas between 5N and the equator from 160E to 170E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers just east of Majuro within 150 miles of a line from 5N173E to 9N180. A trade-wind disturbance southwest of Chuuk is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of 5N mainly from 142E to 151E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼76
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼78
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼78
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼67
Beijing	Sunny	▲49	▼22
Hong Kong	Showers	▲59	▼49
Honolulu	Windy	▲76	▼66
London	Rain	▲46	▼39
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼53
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲94	▼72
Melbourne	Rain	▲80	▼65
Miami	Windy	▲78	▼72
New York	Sunny	▲74	▼55
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼39
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲49	▼38
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼28
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲60	▼44
Salem	Rain	▲57	▼48
San Francisco	Showers	▲64	▼57
Seoul	Sunny	▲42	▼25
Tokyo	Showers	▲51	▼38
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲78	▼56

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:46 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet
8:09 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
2:12 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
7:50 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:29 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:28 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:27 AM	6:27 PM
Sunday	6:27 AM	6:27 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:21 AM	6:38 PM
Thursday	7:11 AM	7:39 PM
Friday	8:01 AM	8:40 PM
Saturday	8:52 AM	9:41 PM
Sunday	9:43 AM	10:41 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2928/193	6:05pm	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	9:00am+1	3, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2927	10:00am	5:35pm	3 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/2925	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2927	10:20pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2929	10:20pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Business

US appeals ruling on accessing data in NY iPhone case

WASHINGTON (AP)—Calling a New York judge's ruling "an unprecedented limitation" on judicial authority, the Justice Department asked a Brooklyn federal court on Monday to reverse a decision that said Apple Inc. wasn't required to pry open a locked iPhone.

The government's 45-page brief comes a week after U.S. Magistrate Judge James Orenstein issued his decision in a routine drug case, dealing a blow to the Obama administration in its battle with the tech giant over privacy and public safety.

Government lawyers called their Monday request routine, arguing that the case is not about asking Apple to do anything new, or to create a "master key" to access all iPhones. Apple has opposed the government's move in a separate case involving the shooter who killed 14 people Dec. 2 in San Bernardino, California.

Apple's pushback has fueled a national debate over digital privacy rights and national security. Apple had previously assailed the government's move, saying U.S. officials were seeking "dangerous power" through the courts and trampling on the company's constitutional rights.

The Brooklyn case involves a government request that is less onerous for Apple and its phone technology. The so-called extraction technique works on an older iPhone operating system and has been used dozens of times before to assist investigators.

The California and New York cases both hinge on the government's interpretation of the centuries-old All Writs Act. The new cases present another challenge for federal courts, which have to sort out how a law that is used to help government investigators squares with privacy and encryption in the digital age.

The government asserted in court papers Monday that Orenstein's ruling in New York is "an unprecedented limitation on" judicial authority and that his legal "analysis goes far afield of the circumstances of this case." It also stated that the government "does not have any adequate alternatives" to obtaining Apple's assistance because attempting to guess the passcode would trigger the phone's auto-erase security feature.

AP

In this Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2016, file photo, protesters carry placards outside an Apple store in Boston.

Federal prosecutors cited several examples in which Apple has extracted data from a locked device under the law, including a child exploitation case in New York, a narcotics case in Florida and another exploitation case in Washington state.

Apple responded Monday: "Judge Orenstein ruled the FBI's request would 'thoroughly undermine fundamental principles of the Constitution' and we agree. We share the judge's concern that misuse of the All Writs Act would start us down a slippery slope that threatens everyone's safety and privacy."

In October, Orenstein invited Apple to challenge the government's use of the 1789 law that compelled the company to help the government obtain iPhone data in criminal cases. Since then, lawyers say Apple has opposed requests to help extract information from over a dozen iPhones in California, Illinois, Massachusetts and New York.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Obama: Wall Street reforms have worked

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama is rejecting criticism from those on the left and the right who say his administration hasn't done enough to prevent another financial crisis. Obama says the changes enacted early in his tenure "have worked." He says the Dodd Frank law made the financial system more secure, implemented consumer protections and did not hurt the economy. Obama says critics are spreading "cynicism." The president didn't name names, but both Democratic and Republican presidential candidates have suggested that the administration wasn't tough enough on Wall Street following the 2008 financial crisis. Obama made the remarks at a meeting with financial regulators.

Global steel slump with roots in China shakes mining towns

AURORA, Minn. (AP)—It's been almost 10 months since an iron plant closed near Aurora, a century-old mining community in northeastern Minnesota. The only dentist retired in June, and nobody would take over his practice. The only drug store closed in August. And in January, the town of 1,600 residents lost its only grocery store. A global steel industry slump with roots in China's economic slowdown has thrown a painful series of punches to a part of the state that produces most of America's iron ore. And the domino effect of the layoffs is particularly visible in Aurora, nestled in the snowy forest on the east end of the Mesabi Iron Range. "We are definitely in trying times and we need somebody to listen. This is real. This is very, very serious," said David Lislegard, a city council member who was a third-generation miner until his plant closed permanently in 2001. His wife lost her job when Aurora Drug became just another vacant downtown storefront.

Bailout inspectors to return to Greece to finish review

BRUSSELS (AP)—Greece's bailout inspectors were cleared Monday to return to Athens to complete a much-delayed review of the government's economic reform commitments that, if deemed sufficient, will pave the way for talks on relieving the country's debt burden.

Jeroen Dijsselbloem, the Dutch finance minister who is also the eurozone's top official, confirmed that the so-called mission chiefs would return to the Greek capital Tuesday citing "enough common ground" between them.

"We stressed that more work needs to be done, more effort needs to be put in for there to be a good outcome," he said after a meeting of the eurozone's 19 finance ministers in Brussels. Though the Greek government has delivered on much of its requirements in recent months, it has struggled to convince creditors that its pension reform proposals go far enough or that its overall budget plans follow the path outlined last summer in the country's third bailout agreement.

"There are still fiscal gaps to be filled and some of the reforms will have to be deepened," Dijsselbloem said.

A successful review of the reforms demanded in the country's latest bailout program is needed to release more rescue loans for Athens to pay its debts and to kick-start discussions on how to reduce Greece's debt burden. The next big repayment is due to the European Central Bank in July.

Dijsselbloem confirmed that the debt discussions could take place soon and would inevitably be part of discussions about the next stage of Greece's bailout program. He cited a "long-standing promise" to make Greece's debt servicing costs manageable if Greece fulfilled its end of the bargain.

Greece has been unable to fund itself for the past six years and has relied on bailout loans from eurozone partners and the International Monetary Fund to avoid bankruptcy.

In July, the newly elected Greek coalition government of left-wing Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras agreed to the country's third bailout since 2010. A further 86 billion euros ($94 billion) was made available to Greece, but would be delivered only if targets were met. Around a quarter of the aid has been disbursed.

Latest data show Japan's economy shrank 1.1 pct in Oct-Dec

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's GDP contracted at a 1.1 percent annualized pace in the last quarter in further evidence the world's third-largest economy is failing to gain traction despite unprecedented efforts by the central bank to spur more growth.

The revised figures released Tuesday compared with a 1.4 percent expansion in the July-September quarter. They showed a modest improvement over the previous estimate of a 1.4 percent contraction in October-December.

But more recent data suggest Japan's growth has remained tepid in early 2016, raising the likelihood of further government action to help boost growth. That could include further moves by the Bank of Japan to encourage lending, extra government spending and possibly a second delay in a sales tax hike scheduled for April 2017.

"Companies have not been as downbeat about production in the month ahead since the 2008 recession. What's more, consumer spending fell further in January as indicated by dips in 'core' household spending and retail sales," Marcel Thieliant of Capital Economics said in a commentary.

In quarterly terms, the economy shrank 0.3 percent in the last quarter compared with a preliminary estimate of a 0.4 percent contraction.

Business investment climbed 1.5 percent, helping to offset a decline in spending on housing. Overall public investment dropped 3.4 percent.

Japan's economy grew 0.5 percent in 2015 after flat-lining in 2014

Economists are divided on whether the Bank of Japan, which holds a policy meeting next week, will expand asset purchases that are pumping trillions of yen (hundreds of billions of dollars) into the economy to help combat deflation.

Last month, the central bank began charging a fee on some commercial banks' deposits, imposing a "negative interest rate" policy that has driven bond yields and interest rates on mortgages and savings deposits lower.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
17,073.95	2,001.76	4,708.25
+67.18	+1.77	-8.77
0.40%	0.09%	-0.19%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.3481	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7671	Philippine Peso	46.9855
British Pound	0.7023	Indian Rupee	67.4299	Singapore Dollar	1.3841
Canadian Dollar	1.3337	Indonesian Rupiah	13155	South Korean Won	1208.3
Chinese Yuan	6.5065	Japanese Yen	113.009	Swiss Franc	0.9932
Euro	0.9074	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1052	Taiwan Dollar	32.618
		New Zealand Dollar	1.479	Thailand Baht	35.4395

Nation

Bloomberg decides against third-party bid for White House

NEW YORK (AP)—Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Monday that he will not run for president, citing a concern that his independent bid would hand the White House to Donald Trump or Ted Cruz.

The billionaire, who has spent months mulling a third-party run that would have roiled this year's already extraordinarily unpredictable presidential campaign, made his decision official through an editorial posted on the Bloomberg View website.

Bloomberg wrote that a three-way race could lead to no one winning a majority of electoral votes, which would send the race to the Republican-controlled House of Representatives—and, therefore, to one of the GOP front-runners.

"That is not a risk I can take in good conscience," Bloomberg wrote.

Bloomberg was blistering in his critique of Trump, currently the GOP front-runner, saying the real estate mogul has run "the most divisive and demagogic presidential campaign I can remember, preying on people's prejudices and fears."

AP

In this Dec. 3, 2015, file photo, former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg speaks during the C40 cities awards ceremony, in Paris.

He was similarly critical of Cruz, saying the Texas senator's "pandering on immigration may lack Trump's rhetorical excess, but it is no less extreme."

Bloomberg acknowledged that he and Trump had been on "friendly terms" and that he had twice agreed to be on Trump's reality TV show "The Apprentice." But the former mayor said Trump's campaign "appeals to our worst impulses."

"We cannot 'make America great again' by turning our backs on the values that made us the world's greatest nation in the first place," Bloomberg wrote. "I love our country too much to play a role in electing a candidate who would weaken our unity and darken our future—and so I will not enter the race for president of the United States."

Bloomberg made only an oblique reference to Democrats Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders and did not endorse a candidate.

The former three-term mayor—who had indicated he would spend $1 billion of his own money on the campaign—had set a mid-March deadline for his team of advisers to assess the feasibility of mounting a run, believing that waiting longer would imperil his ability to complete the petition process needed to get on the ballots in all 50 states.

He had taken some initial steps, cutting a mock TV ad, preparing to open campaign offices in Texas and North Carolina—states with early ballot access deadlines—and having aides begin to vet possible vice presidential candidates, including Michael Mullen, the retired admiral and former head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Those close to the process said Bloomberg had believed the dominance of Trump among Republicans and the rise of Sanders amid Democrats had opened a centrist lane for a non-ideological, pragmatic campaign. But Clinton's string of recent victories has given her a firm grip on the lead for the Democratic nomination and is blocking Bloomberg's possible path, aides to the mayor said.

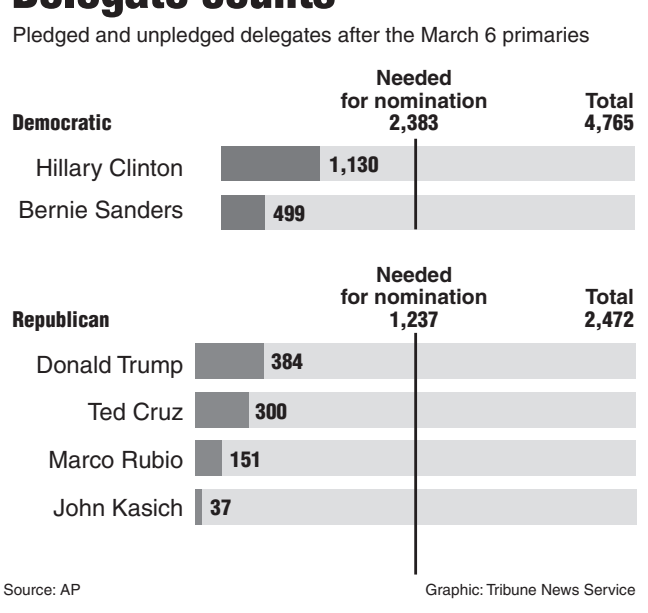
Who's an outsider? GOP establishment fears loss of standing

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican leaders in Washington have spent years casting tea party allies and hardliners in Congress as merely a restive minority, a fringe element to be tolerated.

Now, with Donald Trump and Ted Cruz rising to the top of the 2016 GOP presidential primary, those party leaders are confronting the possibility that they may be the outliers.

One by one, Washington's favored candidates have dropped out of the White House race. Those who are left—Marco Rubio and John Kasich—face long odds and sudden-death primaries in their home states next week. In private conversations and public newspaper editorials, talk of a historic splintering of the GOP centers on the prospect of the establishment, not the insurgents, dissolving or breaking away.

"Something important is ending. It is hard to believe what replaces it will be better," Peggy Noonan, a speechwriter for Ronald Reagan, wrote in a Wall Street Journal column.



Republicans have long grappled with a divide between party leaders and grass-roots supporters. Recent presidential elections papered over the fissures rather than resolved them, with Republicans sending centrist candidates John McCain and Mitt Romney into the general election even as the GOP electorate became more conservative.

Leaders expected the 2016 election to follow the same pattern. Money flowed toward former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, the son and brother of presidents, who seemed to embody the spirit of inclusiveness GOP leaders called for after Romney's staggering lack of success with minority voters in 2012. Even when Trump shook up the race last summer, more traditional Republicans confidently predicted his appeal would be short-lived.

But Trump has maintained his grip on the GOP field, with Cruz emerging as his strongest competitor. As establishment favorites like Bush have dropped out, Trump and Cruz's share of the vote has increased. In a diverse array of states, from Maine to Georgia to Nevada, they've carried more than 60 percent.

"It's a weird election year," said Trent Lott, the former Mississippi senator who is backing Kasich. "Depending on how this election turns out, the party may be different."

To some Republicans, that would be welcome.

Obama praises Nancy Reagan as a source of comfort, strength

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama said he once had the opportunity to meet with former first lady Nancy Reagan, and she could not have been more charming and gracious to him and Michelle Obama when he came into office.

The president spoke about the former first lady on Monday after meeting with financial regulators and advisers. Earlier in the day, he had ordered flags on federal buildings to be flown at half-staff in her memory.

Obama said it's well documented the extraordinary love that she had for former President Ronald Reagan and the comfort and strength she provided him in hard times.

Obama said he has been lucky to have an extraordinary partner in his life as well. He knows how much she meant to the president and country as a whole.

"He was lucky to have her, and I'm sure he would be the first to acknowledge that, so she will be missed," Obama said.

The White House said Monday that first lady Michelle Obama will be attending Mrs. Reagan's funeral, which will be held Friday at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California.

Mrs. Reagan died Sunday at the age of 94.

Class action lawsuit filed by residents over Flint water crisis

FLINT, Mich. (AP)—A lawsuit stemming from Flint's lead-contaminated water was filed Monday on behalf of the city's residents against Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder as well as other current and former government officials and corporations.

The federal lawsuit—which is seeking class-action status—alleges that tens of thousands of residents have suffered physical and economic injuries and damages. It argues officials failed to take action over "dangerous levels of lead" in drinking water and "downplayed the severity of the contamination" in the financially struggling city.

Snyder's spokesman Ari Adler said the administration doesn't comment on pending litigation, but is "staying focused on solutions for the people of Flint."

Numerous lawsuits have been filed on behalf of Flint residents since a public health emergency was declared last year. The latest lawsuit, which seeks a jury trial and unspecified damages, was filed on behalf of seven residents.

Two recall petitions targeting Snyder over the water crisis have been approved. The latest was filed by a Flint activist and approved Monday by the Board of State Canvassers, the Detroit Free Press reported. The other recall petition, filed by a Detroit pastor, was approved last month.

Flint, with a population of about 100,000, had switched from Detroit's water system to the Flint River as a way to save money until a new pipeline to Lake Huron was ready. But during those 18 months, the corrosive water leached lead from the city's old plumbing because certain treatments weren't added to the water.

Snyder, whose administration repeatedly downplayed the lead threat, now calls it a "disaster."

A report by the state auditor general released Friday found that state environmental regulators made crucial errors as Flint began using the new drinking water source that would become contaminated with lead. It says staffers in the Department of Environmental Quality's drinking water office failed to order the city to treat its water with anti-corrosion chemicals as it switched to the river in April 2014, but also said the rules they failed to heed may not be strong enough to protect the public.

The report came as crews in the city started to dig up old pipes connecting water mains to homes.

No level of lead in the human body is considered safe, especially in children. The river water also may have been a source of Legionnaires' disease, which killed at least nine people in the region.

Flint Mayor Karen Weaver announced Sunday that Union Labor Life Insurance Co. committed to bring $25 million in low-cost loans to help remove lead pipes and improve water quality. She said the loans will help her Fast Start initiative that's designed to replace all lead service lines in the city.

Asia

MH370 families' painful choice: Demand answers or move on?

BEIJING (AP)—Nearly every day, the retired factory worker goes to the airline office, riding a series of buses across Beijing to hand-deliver a letter. And nearly every day, the letter says the same thing.

"Tell us the truth, and get our loved ones back to us."

Once she hands over the letter, Dai Shuqin gets back on the bus and goes home, back to a small apartment where boxes hold copies of hundreds of letters she has delivered over the past two years, all begging for news on her sister and four other relatives who vanished when Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 disappeared on March 8, 2014. There were 239 people on board.

Most of the passengers on the plane, which was en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, were Chinese. So across China, dozens of families are still wrestling with how—or if—to accept that their relatives are dead. Investigators believe the Boeing 777 crashed in a remote stretch of the southern Indian Ocean, killing everyone on board after flying far off course and running out of fuel. But they have only theories to explain exactly what happened, or why. Only one confirmed piece of plane wreckage has been found, a battered, rowboat-sized wing part that washed up on an Indian Ocean island about eight months ago.

What can you do when you don't know what happened to people you loved?

Some of the grieving families have filed lawsuits, including 12 families who did so Monday. Some have accepted cash settlements with Malaysia Airlines in exchange for agreeing not to file suit. Many are still debating what to do.

And some, like Dai, find their only solace comes in believing that their relatives are still alive. Somewhere. Somehow. As a result, their lives are now consumed by demanding answers from an airline that has few answers at all.

"People say we are nuts," said Dai, a 62-year-old woman whose younger sister was on the flight, along with her sister's husband, son, daughter-in-law and grandson. "But for us, we have the feeling that our loved ones are still alive."

Officials "just tell us all the passengers are dead. We don't accept that. If they tell us the truth, or give us a convincing explanation, then we'll stop coming here every day."

She does not care if her quest looks impossible.

"I can't sleep and I can't get over this," said Dai.

Her apartment has few decorations beyond a large world map stuck to one wall. A folding metal table is covered with copies of letters sent to the airline.

"I have no other ways to handle this. ... Going to Malaysia Airlines every day gives me a bit of relief, and I feel I am doing something for my sister."

Many relatives believe the real story of MH370 has been hidden from them. They disagree on what may have happened, debating theories and trading facts and rumors. But few believe they know the entire truth.

That suspicion is heightened in China, where widespread censorship and the official control of access to information has led to a general sense among Chinese that what they see in the media, or hear from the government, is not to be trusted. This widespread cynicism foments a quiet if deep-seated anger, and a willingness to accept conspiracy theories.

Kelly Wen, who runs a furniture store, is desperate to move on, to find a way to start her life again after her husband disappeared with the plane.

But she remains overwhelmed by the loss.

"My family is still in the shadow of the MH370 accident," said Wen, a 31-year-old Beijing resident with a 5-year-old son now left without a father. "I can't work like I did before because there are too many issues I need to handle in my family. But I do hope I can gradually walk out of the accident and go back to work."

With the second anniversary approaching, Wen increasingly believes she needs to make up her mind about what to do.

"I need to decide whether to accept compensation and reach agreement with Malaysian Airlines or file suit in court," she said.

She and some 80 other relatives of MH370 passengers went together to meet Malaysia Airlines staff in late February to get updates on the situation. From the start, it did not go well. Outside the airline office were nearly two dozen policemen in case there was trouble.

When they left, few of the relatives were satisfied.

They had come with detailed questions about the status of the search and the investigation. Wen wanted to see security video of passengers boarding the aircraft. The search is expected to end in June, plane or no plane, and they wanted more details on that decision.

But no security video was released, she said, and little new information emerged. Few of the relatives have faith in the official investigation, which was set up by Malaysia and includes experts from Malaysia, Australia, China, Britain, the U.S. and France.

"We hope we can have a third-party, independent investigation when they stop search-and-rescue in June," she said.

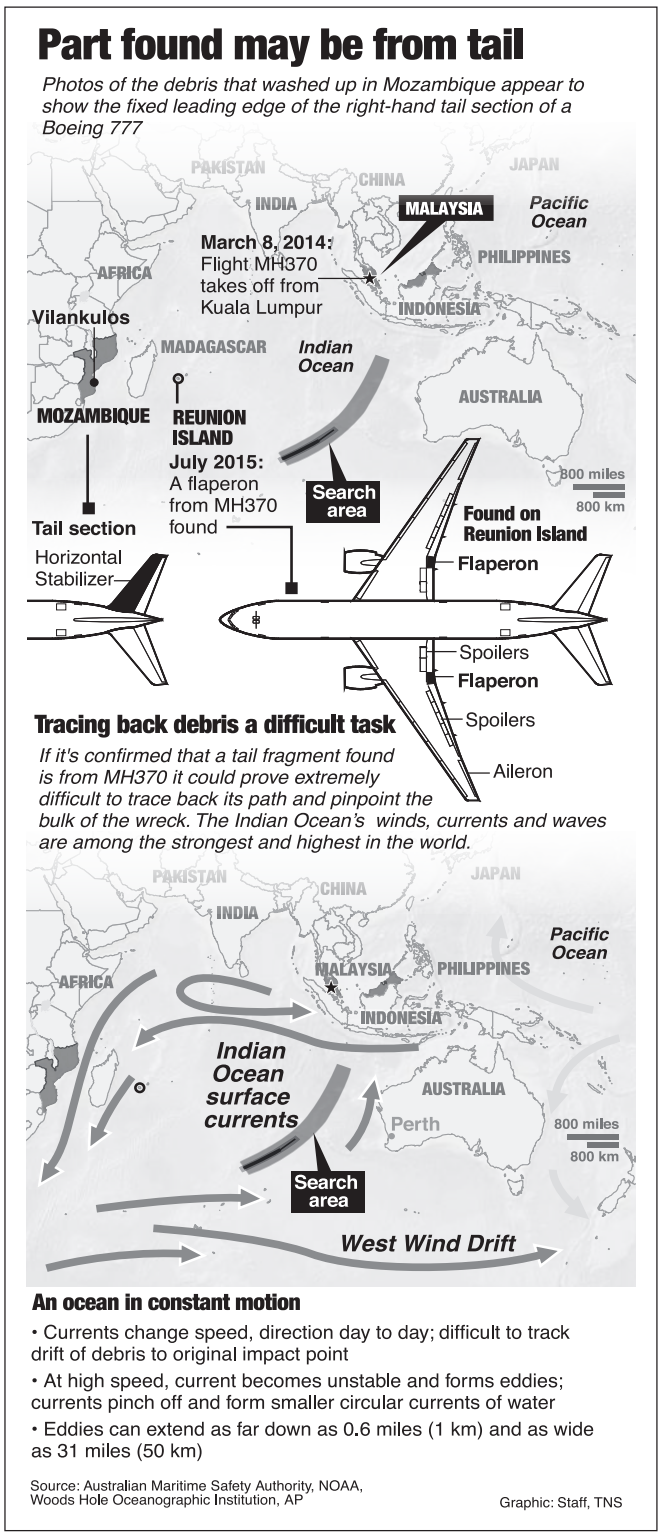
After the meeting, about 10 members of the group ate lunch together in a nearby restaurant.

"This kind of gathering is very important for us," said Wen. "We are already so helpless. If we don't gather among other relatives, we will feel even more lonely," she said.

Dai, however, doesn't think much about moving on. For the foreseeable future, her life is about delivering the letters that she and other relatives have signed.

A year ago, her only daughter had a baby, her only grandchild. Now, her daughter wants Dai to look after the little boy.

But Dai says that won't happen. Going to the airline office takes up too much of her time.


Part found may be from tail
Photos of the debris that washed up in Mozambique appear to show the fixed leading edge of the right-hand tail section of a Boeing 777
PAKISTAN
INDIA
CHINA
JAPAN
MALAYSIA
Pacific Ocean
PHILIPPINES
INDONESIA
AFRICA
March 8, 2014: Flight MH370 takes off from Kuala Lumpur
Vilankulos
MADAGASCAR
Indian Ocean
AUSTRALIA
MOZAMBIQUE
REUNION ISLAND
July 2015: A flaperon from MH370 found
Search area
800 miles
800 km
Tail section
Horizontal Stabilizer
Found on Reunion Island
Flaperon
Spoilers
Flaperon
Spoilers
Aileron
Tracing back debris a difficult task
If it's confirmed that a tail fragment found is from MH370 it could prove extremely difficult to trace back its path and pinpoint the bulk of the wreck. The Indian Ocean's winds, currents and waves are among the strongest and highest in the world.
Indian Ocean surface currents
Perth
West Wind Drift
An ocean in constant motion
• Currents change speed, direction day to day; difficult to track drift of debris to original impact point
• At high speed, current becomes unstable and forms eddies; currents pinch off and form smaller circular currents of water
• Eddies can extend as far down as 0.6 miles (1 km) and as wide as 31 miles (50 km)
Source: Australian Maritime Safety Authority, NOAA, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

PH rebel warns IS may gain from autonomy delay

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The head of a Philippine Muslim rebel group warned Monday that the Islamic State group could gain from frustrations in the country's south following the failure of the Philippine Congress to pass an autonomy bill as part of a peace agreement.

Murad Ebrahim, chairman of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, said the militant IS group has attempted over the past year to recruit supporters in Mindanao but his group has worked to convince people that the peace pact signed with the government in 2014 was the best solution.

But he said the delay in enactment of the bill that aims to establish a more powerful and better-funded autonomous region for minority Muslims has led to frustrations that could be capitalized on by the IS and other small hard-line rebel groups.

Malaysia is a facilitator in the peace talks, and Murad spoke while passing through Kuala Lumpur.

"There have been some efforts of penetration (by IS) but they have not succeeded in establishing a stronghold in Mindanao," he said during a news conference. "But now after the non-passage of the (bill), we are quite concerned that they can capitalize on this because the (frustration) of the people in the area is now very strong."

In Manila, Philippine presidential adviser on the peace talks Teresita Deles agreed that "frustrations of the people on the ground can lead to recruitment for radical, extremist thought and action."

Seoul says N. Korea hacked into S. Korean officials' phones

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Seoul's spy agency on Tuesday accused North Korea of having hacked into the smartphones of dozens of key South Korean officials, stealing text and voice messages and their phone call logs.

The announcement came a day after North Korea warned of pre-emptive nuclear strikes in response to the start of Seoul-Washington military drills it views as an invasion rehearsal. This year's drills are the largest ever, meant to respond to the North's recent nuclear test and long-range rocket launch.

The National Intelligence Service said in a statement that the cyberattacks were made between late February and early March. It didn't say which officials' phones were hacked or whether the stolen text and voice messages contained any sensitive information.

The statement said North Korea also unsuccessfully tried to hack into email accounts of South Korean railway officials earlier this year in a preparation for cyberattack on the South's railway transport control system.

There was no immediate reaction from North Korea.

Seoul has accused Pyongyang of launching a slew of cyberattacks in recent years. Pyongyang has denied the claims.

Many alleged North Korean cyberattacks failed to infiltrate computer systems of businesses and government agencies. But in several successful cases, also denied by North Korea, hackers destroyed hard drive disks, paralyzed banking systems or disrupted access to websites. One of these attacks was so crippling that a South Korean bank was unable to resume online banking services for more than two weeks.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China says it won't budge on South China Sea sovereignty

BEIJING (AP)—China's foreign minister took a hard line Tuesday on the country's claims to virtually all the South China Sea, saying Beijing won't permit other nations to infringe on what it considers its sovereign rights in the strategically vital area. Wang Yi, speaking to reporters at an annual news conference in Beijing, said that another nation's claim to freedom of navigation in the region doesn't give it the right to do whatever it wants—an apparent reference to the U.S., which has sent naval ships past reefs where China has engaged in island-building. Wang sought to deflect allegations China is militarizing the region by building military facilities on the artificial islands. He said China's development there was defensive and that other nations were being militaristic—not China.

Chinese cook dies from toxic waste dumped at parking lot

BEIJING (AP)—Police in a northern Chinese city have broken up a major toxic waste case that came to light when a restaurant owner died after inhaling poisonous gases coming from his kitchen drain, state media said Monday. Police discovered that the operator of a parking lot near the restaurant in Baoding city had allowed factories to dump highly toxic waste into its drain pipes for illegal gains, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The parking lot operator allowed a total of more than 3,400 tons of toxic waste to be dumped between August 2014 and May 2015, Xinhua said. It said police arrested 27 suspects and that 20 factories were implicated in the dumping.

World

Refugees stranded in Greece await news of their fate

IDOMENI, Greece (AP)—While European leaders struggled Monday for a unified approach to the refugee crisis, tens of thousands of people affected by their decisions were left stranded in Greece, with countries along the migrant trail gradually tightening border controls to staunch the northward flood.

The restrictions along what has become known as the western Balkan route has left about 13,000-14,000 people stuck on the Greek-Macedonian border near the village of Idomeni, and more than 36,000 people in the financially stricken country.

The European Union held a summit meeting Monday with Turkey to try to halt the flow of thousands of refugees and migrants coming from the Turkish coast to nearby Greek islands, whose proximity has made the country the preferred route into Europe.

But while European leaders haggled in Brussels, a punishing thunderstorm turned much of the overcrowded Idomeni camp into a sea of mud. Conditions are deteriorating in the camp, which was set up only for about 2,000 people, and crews are struggling to maintain hygiene.

More people have arrived each day, and hundreds of small tents from aid organizations have sprung up in and around the camp, spilling into fields and onto nearby railway tracks and a train station platform, with nowhere to go.

Until a few months ago, Idomeni was a transit camp where people would stay for a couple of days before continuing northward. But Macedonia began tightening the controls late last year, saying other countries farther up the line—Serbia, Croatia and Austria—were doing the same.

AP

A woman struggles with a plastic cover during a rainfall at the northern Greek border station of Idomeni, Monday, March 7, 2016.

First the route was closed to people considered economic migrants, with only those from countries affected by war—Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan—allowed to cross. Then, in November, the Afghans were stopped, too.

Ever more stringent restrictions have appeared since then. In recent days, Macedonia began denying entry to Syrians and Iraqis whose registration papers from the Greek authorities had been signed in black ink, rather than blue.

On Sunday, Macedonia allowed in only people from cities deemed to have been affected by war, meaning those from Aleppo, for example, could cross, but not those from Damascus, the Syrian capital.

The restrictions have led to occasional protests by frustrated refugees who stage sit-down protests on the railway tracks, blocking freight trains.

Even though there were no trains Monday, dozens of men, women and children sat on the tracks holding banners, waving a German flag and chanting, "Germany, Germany," and "Mama Merkel," referring to German Chancellor Angela Merkel, whom they consider sensitive to their plight.

"We are protesting because of the Macedonians and because we know all of their imports are coming from the sea on these railway tracks," said Syrian Abdul Rahman, "and I, for one, if the train comes here, I will die on these railway tracks if (the Macedonians) don't open the gate at the border."

Macedonia has said it can only take in as many people from Greece as Serbia will allow to enter from Macedonia. Serbia has severely restricted the flow in recent days.

This has led to about 1,500 people being stuck on the Macedonian-Serbian border—630 Afghans and the rest Syrians and Iraqis.

EU, Turkey hope to get breakthrough migrant deal by March 17

BRUSSELS (AP)—European Union leaders hoped early Tuesday they reached the outlines for a possible deal with Ankara to return thousands of migrants to Turkey and said they were confident a full agreement could be reached at a summit next week.

After months of disagreements and increasing bickering among the 28 EU nations, French President Francois Hollande said that "the summit has created hope that the refugee question can be dealt with through solidarity in Europe, and efficiency in cooperation with Turkey."

All eyes centered now on March 17 and the start of a two-day summit to finalize the commitment and clinch an iron-clad deal which the leaders hope would allow for a return to normalcy at their borders by the end of the year.

Turkey said it would be willing to make greater efforts to contain irregular migration. "The truth is that Turkey came to the summit with attractive proposals, and I believe that surprised many," said Greek Prime Minister Alex Tsipras.

EU President Donald Tusk said that after a week of shuttle diplomacy in and around Turkey, "we have a breakthrough now."

During 12 hours of negotiations, Turkey insisted that any agreement would require Europe to advance Turkey's long-delayed hope of joining the bloc. As an additional step, Turkey said it expects EU nations to ease its visa restrictions on Turkish citizens within months.

Turkey, home to 2.75 million refugees chiefly from neighboring Syria, surprised EU counterparts Monday by demanding a much more funding beyond the 3 billion euros ($3.3 billion) already pledged. "Turkey is ready to work with the EU, and Turkey is ready to be a member of the EU as well," Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davatoglu told reporters in Brussels.

Davutoglu did not disclose how much money Turkey was seeking but he said that the funds would only go to Syrian refugees. "Not one euro will go to Turkish citizens. Every penny will be spent for Syrian refugees."

Tunisia bloodied: 53 dead in clashes near Libyan border

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)—Exceptionally deadly clashes between Tunisian forces and extremist attackers left at least 53 people dead Monday near Tunisia's border with Libya, the government said, amid growing fears that violence from Libya could destabilize the whole region.

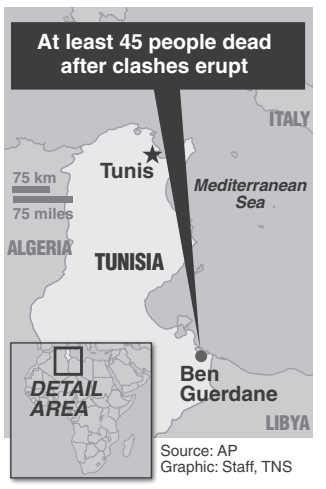
Gunmen attacked the city of Ben Guerdane at dawn Monday and fighting continued past nightfall. Tunisia closed its border with Libya and the Tunisian interior and defense ministers traveled to the town to oversee the operation, according to a joint statement from their ministries.

Tunisian Prime Minister Hassid Essid said on Wtaniya television that the attack was an Islamic State attempt to carve out a stronghold on the border. No group claimed immediate responsibility, but two IS-affiliated websites said Islamic State group militants were engaged in the fighting.

"This is an unprecedented attack, planned and organized. Its goal was probably to take control of this area and to announce a new emirate," Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi said.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned the attack and reiterated the U.N.'s commitment "to stand with the people of Tunisia as they confront the scourge of terrorism and work to preserve the gains of the revolution," his spokesman said.

At dawn Monday, gunmen targeted a police station and military facilities in Ben Guerdane, Tunisian Interior Ministry spokesman Yasser Mosbah told The Associated Press. A night curfew was ordered in Ben Guerdane until further notice.



Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

The attack and ensuing fighting left 35 attackers, seven civilians and 11 members of Tunisia's security forces dead, according to the joint government statement.

A 12-year-old girl was among those killed.

Corpses lay in the street and gunmen hid in homes as darkness fell, gunfire sporadically ringing out, according to resident and local journalist Raoudha Bouttar.

Another witness, who spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear of repercussions from the attackers, said the gunmen spoke of creating a caliphate and "liberating" the town.

Tunisian forces have repeatedly clashed with extremists on the borders of Libya and Algeria in recent years, but Monday's fighting was unusually bloody. Tunisia has been as a model of relative stability for the region since an uprising five years ago ushered in democracy and inspired Arab Spring protests against dictatorships across the region.

US strikes hit Somalia training camp; drone report previewed

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. airstrikes bombarded an al-Shabab training camp in Somalia Saturday, killing more than 150 militant fighters who were preparing to launch a large-scale attack, likely against African or U.S. personnel, the Pentagon said Monday.

Multiple drones and manned aircraft launched missiles and bombs on the site, called Raso Camp, which the U.S. had been watching for several weeks, said Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman.

News of the attack comes as the White House announced Monday that it will disclose how many people have been killed by American drones and other counterterrorism strikes since 2009, when President Barack Obama took office.

Lisa Monaco, Obama's counterterrorism and homeland security adviser, said the report will be released "in the coming weeks," casting it as part of a commitment to transparency for U.S. actions overseas. Monaco said the figures would be disclosed annually in the future, although it will ultimately be up to Obama's successor to decide whether to continue the practice.

The report will include both combatants and civilians the U.S. believes have died in strikes. It won't cover major warzones like Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan, but will focus on strikes against extremist targets in other regions such as Pakistan, Libya, Yemen, Somalia and other locations in North Africa.

"We know that not only is greater transparency the right thing to do, it is the best way to maintain the legitimacy of our counterterrorism actions and the broad support of our allies," Monaco said at the Council on Foreign Relations.

The Pentagon on Monday provided some details about the Somalia strike, which happened during the early evening there. Davis said it appeared that the training was about to come to an end, and the operational phase of a suspected attack was about to start. Military forces from the U.S. and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) are routinely working in the country, and Davis said they could have been the targets of al-Shabab's planned attack.

Focus

AP

In this Thursday, March 3, 2016 photo, Tulane microbiology professor Bob Garry poses for a photo in the laboratory of the J. Bennett Johnston Health & Environmental Research Building in New Orleans. Garry was among the scientists who voiced concerns about the quality of the work of Metabiota Inc., an outbreak monitoring company which was given crucial disease-fighting responsibilities in Sierra Leone during the 2014 Ebola epidemic.

AP INVESTIGATION:

American company bungled EBOLA RESPONSE

By RAPHAEL SATTER and MARIA CHENG
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An American company that bills itself as a pioneer in tracking emerging epidemics made a series of costly mistakes during the 2014 Ebola outbreak that swept across West Africa—with employees feuding with fellow responders, contributing to misdiagnosed Ebola cases and repeatedly misreading the trajectory of the virus, an Associated Press investigation has found.

San Francisco-based Metabiota Inc. was tapped by the Sierra Leonean government and the World Health Organization to help monitor the spread of the virus and support the response after Ebola was discovered circulating in neighboring Guinea in March 2014. But emails obtained by AP and interviews with aid workers on the ground show that some of the company's actions made an already chaotic situation worse.

WHO outbreak expert Dr. Eric Bertherat wrote to colleagues in a July 17, 2014, email about misdiagnoses and "total confusion" at the Sierra Leone government lab Metabiota shared with Tulane University in the city of Kenema. He said there was "no tracking of the samples" and "absolutely no control on what is being done."

"This is a situation that WHO can no longer endorse," he wrote.

Metabiota chief executive officer and founder Nathan Wolfe said there was no evidence his company was responsible for the lab blunders, that the reported squabbles were overblown and that any predictions made by his employees didn't reflect the company's position. He said Metabiota doesn't specialize in outbreak response and that his employees stepped in to help and performed admirably amid the carnage of the world's biggest-ever Ebola outbreak.

"Metabiota's team worked tirelessly, skillfully and at substantial potential danger to themselves to assist when most of the world was still ignoring the problem," he said in an email. "We are proud of our team efforts which went above and beyond the call of duty."

Wolfe said some of the problems flagged were misunderstandings—and that others were planted by commercial rivals.

The complaints about Metabiota mirror the wider mismanagement that hamstrung the world's response to Ebola, a disease that has killed upward of 11,000 people. Previous AP reporting has shown that WHO resisted sounding the alarm over Ebola for two months on political, religious and economic grounds and failed to put together a decisive response even after the alert was issued. The turmoil that followed left health workers in Kenema bereft of protective equipment or even body bags and using expired chlorine, a crucial disinfectant.

WHO said Metabiota was well-placed to help when Ebola broke out in West Africa because of its expertise with Lassa, a related disease. The agency declined to give any detail about how it dealt with the complaints from senior staff about the firm or the status of their current relationship.

In Sierra Leone, Sylvia Blyden, who served as special executive assistant to the country's president in the early days of the outbreak, said Metabiota's response was a disaster.

"They messed up the entire region," she said. She called Metabiota's attempt to claim credit for its Ebola work "an insult for the memories of thousands of Africans who have died."

"THE VIRAL STORM"

Wolfe, a swashbuckling scientist sometimes described as the Indiana Jones of virology, has focused his company's work on disease hotspots like West Africa in a bid to sniff out the next big threat. In his book, "The Viral Storm," Wolfe writes that his work is aimed at hunting down "the first moments at the birth of a new pandemic" to prevent its global spread.

With a doctorate in immunology and infectious diseases from Harvard, Wolfe, 45, has found some serious backers. Metabiota and its nonprofit sister company Global Viral have received millions in funding from USAID, Google and the Skoll Foundation, among others. The Department of Defense alone has granted more than $18 million worth of contracts to the firm, federal records show.

In the early months of the outbreak, with WHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention thin on the ground, Metabiota said it stepped in to help at the request of the Sierra Leonean government.

An account posted to its website says Metabiota provided "critical support" in the earliest days of the outbreak, organizing training, jointly running Sierra Leone's Ebola laboratory, assisting with outbreak logistics and producing daily reports for the government.

Messages saved to ProMed, a mailing list for outbreak watchers, are upbeat, describing Metabiota's tests and how it was teaching Sierra Leoneans how to set up Ebola isolation wards. On May 12, senior Metabiota scientist Dr. Jean-Paul Gonzalez said preparedness work had "ultimately protected, or at least uniquely prepared, Sierra Leone."

But there were already reports of suspected infections in the country and, within weeks, the virus tore through Sierra Leone, overwhelming the hospital in Kenema where Metabiota shared the 700-square-foot (65-square-meter) lab with Tulane.

To some at Tulane, which had a long-established research project at the lab, Metabiota's missteps were predictable. The two groups worked side-by-side in an uneasy relationship that observers said sometimes tipped into open conflict.

Tulane microbiology professor Bob Garry questioned whether Gonzalez was the right person to teach Sierra Leoneans how to protect themselves from Ebola. In 1994, the French researcher was at the center of a safety scare at Yale University after he accidentally infected himself with the rare Sabia virus and didn't notify officials there for more than a week. The university put more than 100 people under surveillance and ordered Gonzalez to take a remedial safety course. Garry said that should have raised a red flag.

"Do you really want the person who infected himself with hemorrhagic fever going around explaining to people how to be safe?" he asked.

Gonzalez referred questions to a Metabiota press representative, who said in an email that the incident happened more than 20 years ago and that Gonzalez has extensive lab safety experience.

But Garry also faced questions; the WHO emails obtained by AP complaining about the Kenema lab are as critical of Tulane as they are of Metabiota.

Garry acknowledged mistakes but said they were understandable given the chaotic circumstances.

"We didn't have the personnel and the infrastructure that was needed to handle the onslaught of cases that were coming," he said. "We were doing the best we had with what we had there."

"THEY WERE AT WAR"

As the death toll mounted in July, scientists from WHO, the United States and Canada were voicing concerns about what Metabiota and its Tulane colleagues were doing at the Kenema lab, according to the emails obtained by AP and interviews with those on the ground at the time.

When Gary Kobinger, head of special pathogens at the Public Health Agency of Canada, double-checked some of the facility's work in mid-July, he found worrying discrepancies in four of eight tests and identified up to five people wrongly diagnosed with Ebola, among them a worker with the medical charity Doctors Without Borders.

Kobinger told AP in a telephone interview that the misdiagnoses he caught suggested many more had gone unnoticed.

"If you detect two, three, four, five, how many are out there?" he said.

The mistakes were doubly dangerous in a country where many mistrusted international workers, who were suspected of spreading Ebola deliberately, said Bertherat, the WHO outbreak expert. Attempts to reassure a jittery public could be "totally ruined if the population does not trust anymore in the diagnostic of the medical teams," he wrote in an email.

Bertherat proposed two fixes for the problematic lab: WHO could either train Metabiota and Tulane staffers, or close down the facility and transfer all testing to another lab. He told his boss on July 18, 2014, that shutting down the shared lab was the "more prudent" option.

Five days later, Geneva-based WHO staffer Pat Drury emailed the agency's chief, Dr.

See EBOLA on Page 18

EBOLA

From Page 17

Margaret Chan, with criticism of both Tulane and Metabiota, referring to their shared facility as two labs.

"Both labs do not meet international standards for Biosecurity," he said, adding that "several patients have been wrongly tested positive."

Metabiota founder Wolfe said "we did wonderful lab work as far as I'm concerned." Errors in the shared facility stopped once "other groups" were pulled from the testing and, in any case, he noted that Metabiota tested over 1,800 samples. Even if any mistakes were made, he said the error rates were well within ranges seen elsewhere.

Wolfe did not name the "other groups," but documents and interviews show Metabiota and Tulane blamed each other.

"On the surface, they were collaborating," Kobinger said. But in reality, "they were at war."

U.S. health official Austin Demby, who was sent to evaluate the lab's work at the request of the CDC and Sierra Leone, said initial diagnostic tests carried out by Metabiota and Tulane clashed as often as 30 percent of the time. Errors raised the risk that the virus could be spread further by sending infected patients home or confining otherwise healthy people to infectious Ebola wards.

In a July 21 email to CDC and State Department officials, Demby put the blame at Tulane's door, saying Metabiota's tests were always closer to the mark and that Tulane's "add no real value to the diagnosis." But Tulane's Garry said Metabiota's staff stirred confusion by not following protocol.

Wolfe said that was "simply false."

The lab's set-up also was worrisome. Used needles littered the place, according to a worker who spoke on condition of anonymity because the worker was not authorized to speak to the media. Demby said in his email that the lab lacked an ultraviolet light for decontamination and didn't have enough space to process blood samples safely.

"The cross contamination potential is huge and quite frankly unacceptable," he wrote.

Tulane pulled the plug on its tests soon thereafter and the lab's results improved. Kobinger credited Metabiota researcher Nadia Wauquier—"the hero of that whole gang"—with tightening procedures, but eventually the company was relieved of its testing duties and the CDC took over. Both Tulane and Metabiota say they stepped aside voluntarily.

AP

In this Sept. 24, 2014, file photo, healthcare workers load a man suspected of suffering from the Ebola virus onto an ambulance in Kenema, Sierra Leone. An Associated Press investigation found that Metabiota Inc., an American company given crucial disease-fighting responsibilities in the Ebola outbreak, was criticized for committing one blunder after another—misdiagnosing patients with the virus, feuding with other responders and offering rosy predictions about the course of the epidemic that proved wrong.

"THEY ARE SENDING WRONG MESSAGES"

Outside the lab, the training touted by Metabiota unnerved some fellow responders.

Anja Wolz, an emergency coordinator with Doctors Without Borders, told AP in an interview that she saw Metabiota workers enter the homes of suspected Ebola patients without protective gear and without decontaminating themselves before leaving high-risk areas.

"They didn't even have chlorine with them to wash their hands," she said, adding that Metabiota project coordinator James Bangura told her they didn't need the critical disinfectant.

"I didn't go inside the Metabiota lab," she said. "I refused to go because I had already seen enough."

In a telephone interview, Bangura denied flouting safety measures.

Aid workers also complained that Metabiota employees including Bangura and a Ugandan consultant hijacked the outbreak response in Kenema, which was supposed to be directed by WHO.

Metabiota staffers "are systematically obstructing any attempt to improve the existing surveillance system and there are a lot of improvement(s) needed," WHO Ebola coordinator Philippe Barboza said in an August 8, 2014, email. The next day, he argued that WHO should pull its outbreak staff from Kenema so they wouldn't be tarred with Metabiota's failures, writing he was "very concerned of the potential reputational risk for WHO."

British disease expert Chris Lane echoed Barboza's concerns. In a message to Barboza, he lamented that "much good work was achieved prior to the arrival of the Metabiota field staff."

Barboza and Lane declined comment on the arguments. Metabiota officials acknowledged the dispute but downplayed it.

"It is inaccurate to suggest a major conflict between WHO and Metabiota," Wolfe said, noting that Bangura was awarded a Sierra Leonean presidential silver medal for his Ebola efforts.

Nevertheless, the disagreement was serious enough that Metabiota said it fired the consultant and pulled Bangura from Kenema.

The consequences went beyond office politics. In one email, Barboza said 1 million euros in funding proposed by the International Rescue Committee was being held up because the donors wanted "a clear WHO leadership."

Some responders said one of the most disturbing mistakes Metabiota employees made was misreading the epidemic.

Wolz, of Doctors Without Borders, said she recalled a meeting in the early summer as cases began multiplying "when I said that the outbreak was completely out of control." She said Metabiota responded, 'No, we know where we are, everything is OK.'"

Kobinger, the Canadian scientist, said Bangura would interpret temporary dips in the number of cases to mean that the outbreak was dissipating. He said he couldn't fathom that reasoning given the number of Ebola-positive samples pouring into his own lab in nearby Kailahun.

Though Bangura said he did not personally make any estimates, Kobinger said Bangura told him in July that the outbreak would be over in "two or three weeks."

Any suggestion Metabiota wrongly forecast the Ebola epidemic is rejected by Wolfe, who once wrote that his career is focused on creating systems "that can accurately detect pandemics early, determine their likely importance, and, with any luck, crush those that have the potential to devastate us."

Wolfe told AP that his company couldn't be held responsible for the predictions of employees seconded to Sierra Leone's Health Ministry.

"We didn't make forecasts. We loaned individuals to the ministry," Wolfe said. "So the notion that somehow it's a Metabiota forecast is simply completely inaccurate."

AP

In this photo taken Friday, Sept. 18, 2015, a sign in a hallway at Metabiota Inc. in San Francisco advertises the company's mission. The company tries to identify and monitor emerging epidemics around the world and was given crucial disease-fighting responsibilities in Sierra Leone in the early months of the 2014 Ebola outbreak.

Fellow responders may not have grasped the distinction. On Aug. 11—just three days after WHO had declared the crisis a global emergency—Metabiota employees presented a slideshow to an Ebola task force. Next to a bar chart showing a slowdown in cases were the words: "The outbreak is stabilizing."

WHO data specialist Mikiko Senga wasn't persuaded.

"This is the kind of report we get from Metabiota epidemiologists," she emailed colleagues from the presentation. "They are sending wrong messages. The outbreak is clearly not stabilizing."

It was only in the second half of August that Kenema numbers began falling and, even then, the virus was merely moving to more populated areas.

Nearly two years after the virus was first discovered circulating near its border, Sierra Leone still is not officially Ebola-free.

"THEY MESSED UP ON EBOLA"

Despite doubts about Metabiota's performance, Wolfe's firm has largely been congratulated on its work in West Africa. In December 2014, it won a European Union grant to help validate new tests and treatments for the disease, something a company official said was in recognition of "the critical contributions our team has made in supporting the current outbreak."

In 2015, the company raised some $30 million in investment from four U.S. investment firms intended to "support Metabiota's efforts to further develop and deliver epidemic risk management worldwide," according to a press release.

Even WHO has publicly credited Metabiota for its work during the outbreak. Months after Senga, one of its employees, complained privately about Metabiota's optimistic predictions in Kenema, she wrote a sunnier account on WHO's website.

"The fact that they were already there helped a lot," she wrote in a post called "Ebola Diaries." Tulane and Metabiota employees already being established in Kenema "made our case investigations and contact tracing work a lot easier," she wrote.

Senga declined comment when reached by AP.

Guillaume Lachenal, a medical historian at Paris Diderot University who has followed Metabiota's work in Africa, said it was indecent of the company to claim Ebola as a success story.

"They messed up on Ebola. That can happen," he said. "To make a success story out of their Ebola response, that's quite something."

Good Housekeeping

Diggin' In: Do homework before landscaping

By KATHY VAN MULLEKOM
DAILY PRESS

Kathy Van Mullekom is the garden/home columnist for the Daily Press in Newport News, Va. Follow her on Facebook@ Kathy Hogan Van Mullekom, on Twitter @diggindirt and at Pinterest@digginin. Her blog can be read at Diggin@ RoomandYard.com

Whimsical features such as butterflies often play the role of garden art in Jeff Willett's landscape designs. MCT

In the 1960s, Jeff Willett's father was a career union pressman running a large commercial printing press. Off the job, he had a passion for growing vegetables.

"Being his only son at home I was by default his built in laborer," says Willett, 59, now living in southeastern Virginia

"I didn't like it at the time, but early on in my career I was very appreciative of my initial introduction into gardening. My father and eldest sister were instrumental in guiding me toward the horticulture field."

Today, Willett is a landscape designer for McDonald Garden Center in Hampton, Va., where his 41-year career has included positions in sales, management, production, installation and design.

Willett says his landscape style is eclectic, a personal style he's developed from more than four decades of watching other people in the industry. He likes to mix styles — contemporary with formal elements or large woody masses with heavy perennial influences. He also favors decorative hardscapes and garden art.

"I am not a cookie cutter designer," he says.

"I don't feel a particular style of architecture requires a specific garden style. Style is an evolutionary process."

MCT

Strategically placed evergreens can effectively camouflage utilitarian objects such as a TV satellite dish, says designer Jeff Willett.

Willett believes landscaping should not strike fear in your heart. Instead, research, and think outside the box, he encourages homeowners looking for a different look in their yard.

"If you like something that is culturally compatible with the area, go for it," he says.

"Think of your property like you do your home — as a series of rooms that you don't need to decorate all at once. Take baby steps."

Before you do a landscape makeover, analyze your property's layout, determining exposures such as sun and shade. Study your home's architectural details and equipment around it, such as trash cans/enclosures and heating/air conditioning equipment. Know your soil's growing conditions, evaluating different spots because soil can vary from the front to the back of your property.

Lastly, determine a budget.

"Gardening is, in my mind, a cerebrally calming endeavor," says Willett.

"You're planting things in the ground, doing something environmentally responsible and most importantly you're making your property more beautiful."

FAVORITE TREES

■ Japanese maples for ornamental values; there are hundreds of cultivars and one for every design need.

■ River birch for its upright habit and exfoliating bark; fast grower.

■ Red oak for fall color

■ Crape myrtle for bark color, form and flower power.

■ Upright European hornbeam for great formal habit and fall color.

FAVORITE SHRUBS

■ Japanese barberry for leaf color and minimum maintenance.

■ Mojo, Wheeler's dwarf pittosporum for its tropical appearance and minimum maintenance.

■ Dwarf Hinoki cypress for its interesting texture and eye-catching appeal.

■ Hydrangea for long-lasting flowers.

■ Drift roses for Knock Out rose-like features without the large size; most Knock Out roses outgrow planting spaces.

FAVORITE PERENNIALS

■ Hosta for great texture in shade.

■ Carex as better ground cover substitute for overused liriope.

■ May Night salvia for superb blue color.

■ Heuchera, nicknamed coral bells, for fabulous color range and textures.

■ Coreopsis, or tickseed, for continuous blooms and wonderful foliage.

When choosing plants on your own or with the help of a professional landscape designer, consider plants that will behave and be happy where they will grow, Willett advises.

"Early in my career I planted several spec houses in a development with shrubs that looked great in three-gallon pots at the time — flash ahead two years and you can't see out the first floor windows," he says

"I like to use the analogy that a Great Dane puppy is great in a studio apartment. A full grown Great Dane in a studio apartment is probably a big mistake."

MCT

Jeff Willett, landscape design professional at McDonald Garden Center in Hampton, says he likes helping people beautify their homes and neighborhoods.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING ONE

Irish Stout Skillet Pie

A store-bought crust makes this one-pan beef pie even easier, and the hearty filling is sure to make for a family favorite.

1 tablespoon olive oil
1 pound lean ground beef
4 ounces small shiitake mushrooms
Kosher salt
Pepper
2 tablespoons tomato paste
1/2 cup frozen pearl onions
1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves
3 tablespoon all-purpose flour
8 ounces stout (we used Guinness)
2 cup frozen butternut squash pieces
1 cup frozen peas
1 refrigerated rolled pie crust
1 large egg

1. Heat oven to 375 F. Heat the oil in a 9-inch cast-iron skillet over medium heat. Add the beef, mushrooms and 3/4 teaspoon each salt and pepper, and cook, breaking up the beef with a spoon, until browned, 4 to 6 minutes. Spoon off and discard any fat.

2. Add the tomato paste and cook, stirring, for 2 minutes. Stir in the onions and thyme, then sprinkle with the flour and cook, stirring, for 30 seconds.

3. Add the stout and simmer until the liquid has thickened, about 1 minute. Add 1/2 cup water and bring to a simmer. Add the squash and peas, return to a simmer, then remove from heat. (This whole step takes only 2 to 3 minutes total.)

4. Unroll the pastry on a cutting board, brush with the egg, then cut a cross in the center. Lay the dough on top of the beef mixture (egg-side up), gently pressing the edges around the inside of the skillet. Bake until golden brown, 30 to 35 minutes. Let rest for 5 minutes before serving. Makes 4 servings.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipes/.

Box Office Top 20: 'Zootopia' rises to record $75 million

1. **"Zootopia,"** Disney, $75,063,401, 3,827 locations, $19,614 average, $75,063,401, 1 week.
2. **"London Has Fallen,"** Focus Features, $21,635,601, 3,490 locations, $6,199 average, $21,635,601, 1 week.
3. **"Deadpool,"** 20th Century Fox, $16,725,929, 3,624 locations, $4,615 average, $311,484,061, 4 weeks.
4. **"Whiskey Tango Foxtrot,"** Paramount, $7,443,007, 2,374 locations, $3,135 average, $7,443,007, 1 week.
5. **"Gods Of Egypt,"** Lionsgate, $5,198,091, 3,117 locations, $1,668 average, $23,046,411, 2 weeks.
6. **"Risen,"** Sony, $3,906,484, 2,507 locations, $1,558 average, $28,672,407, 3 weeks.
7. **"Kung Fu Panda 3,"** 20th Century Fox, $3,572,683, 2,700 locations, $1,323 average, $133,879,516, 6 weeks.
8. **"The Revenant,"** 20th Century Fox, $3,402,675, 1,488 locations, $2,287 average, $176,054,596, 11 week.
9. **"Eddie The Eagle,"** 20th Century Fox, $3,128,815, 2,044 locations, $1,531 average, $10,889,947, 2 weeks.
10. **"The Witch,"** A24, $2,485,036, 1,715 locations, $1,449 average, $20,895,610, 3 weeks.
11. **"Triple 9,"** Open Road, $2,263,668, 2,205 locations, $1,027 average, $10,374,702, 2 weeks.
12. **"How To Be Single,"** Warner Bros., $2,117,076, 1,602 locations, $1,322 average, $43,320,541, 4 weeks.
13. **"Star Wars: The Force Awakens,"** Disney, $1,864,704, 1,021 locations, $1,826 average, $928,842,219, 12 weeks.
14. **"MET Opera: Manon Lescaut (2016),"** Fathom Events, $1,770,000, 900 locations, $1,967 average, $1,770,000, 1 week.
15. **"Spotlight,"** Open Road, $1,766,212, 1,227 locations, $1,439 average, $41,562,351, 18 weeks.
16. **"Race,"** Focus Features, $1,511,530, 1,286 locations, $1,175 average, $16,511,093, 3 weeks.
17. **"The Other Side Of The Door,"** 20th Century Fox, $1,211,210, 546 locations, $2,218 average, $1,211,210, 1 week.
18. **"The Lady In The Van,"** Sony Pictures Classics, $717,445, 429 locations, $1,672 average, $7,116,006, 8 weeks.
19. **"Ride Along 2,"** Universal, $706,660, 607 locations, $1,164 average, $89,504,525, 8 weeks.
20. **"The Big Short,"** Paramount, $503,566, 314 locations, $1,604 average, $69,352,683, 13 weeks.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Zootopia" made even more of a mark at the box office than expected. Disney's latest animated romp took in $75 million in its opening weekend, according to comScore Monday. It's the highest three-day opening ever for Disney Animation, topping "Frozen's" $67.4 million, and the fourth biggest March debut ever.

The Gerard Butler pic "London Has Fallen" debuted in second place with $21.6 million, effectively ending "Deadpool's" three-week streak at the top of the charts. In third place, "Deadpool" too in $16.7 million, bringing its domestic total to $311.4 million.

The Tina Fey comedy "Whiskey Tango Foxtrot" also opened this weekend to $7.4 million to take fourth place, while "Gods of Egypt" rounded out the top five with $5.2 million.

AP

This image released by Disney shows Judy Hopps, voiced by Ginnifer Goodwin, in a scene from the animated film, "Zootopia."

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by comScore:

How Matt Damon may kickstart China's global movie ambitions

LOS ANGELES (AP)—China has a new ally in its campaign to turn itself into a global cultural superpower: Matt Damon. And, behind him, a good chunk of Hollywood as well. Chinese leaders have long sought international cultural influence, aka "soft power," commensurate with the nation's economic might. That's brought us official Confucian institutes scattered across the world, billions of dollars in development aid and awe-inspiring Olympic ceremonies. But China's own film industry remains a mere flicker on the global screen.

Which is where Damon comes in. Early next year, the star of "The Martian" will headline "The Great Wall," a historical epic filmed in China with Chinese and American stars, a famous Chinese director, a cast and crew of roughly 1,300, a $150 million budget and some nasty monsters. (Not to mention the support of the Chinese government.) If all goes according to plan, the film could be China's first international blockbuster—one that might presage a wave of similar films intended to present a new face of China to the world.

That's a lot to expect from a decidedly unusual action flick. In "The Great Wall," Damon plays a wandering European mercenary in the pre-gunpowder era who stumbles across the titular structure and learns what it's really for. (Hint: Those monsters might be involved.)

But film-industry types on both sides of the Pacific believe this kind of joint venture could open huge new opportunities for all sides. For Hollywood, it's about expanding markets and investment; for the Chinese government and private companies alike, it's about harnessing American stars and storytelling to help movies based on Chinese history, myths and cultural icons break out onto a global stage.

Chinese authorities "have not made any secret of their desire to spread and to encourage and to develop soft power," says Rance Pow, president of Artisan Gateway, a Shanghai-based research firm that tracks the Chinese box office. Regaling the world with made-in-China blockbusters, he says, is one way to do so.

Hollywood naturally welcomes Chinese investment to help fuel its voracious movie-making machine. One Chinese company—conglomerate Dalian Wanda Group—snapped up an entire Hollywood studio, Legendary Entertainment, for $3.5 billion. Legendary just happens to be the studio behind "The Great Wall."

Working with Chinese partners also offers a shortcut past rules that limit the distribution of foreign movies in China's booming film market. That could open up a vast new territory to U.S. studios—at least so long as they play by China's rules.

"For U.S. industry, these concessions are really about market access," says Thilo Hanemann, an economist with Rhodium Group, a research firm focused on global trade flows and government policies.

Of course, plenty could still go wrong. There's no guarantee that either "The Great Wall" or another half-dozen or so would-be Chinese blockbusters will wow either Chinese or global audiences. Some previous efforts along these lines have been global flops.

This time, both Chinese and American movie executives think they've got the formula right. The most successful attempt so far is "Kung Fu Panda 3," which has pulled in $314 million, including an outsized $149 million in China. Unlike its predecessors, the third movie in the series was produced by a joint venture between the series' original studio, DreamWorks Animation and Chinese investors, including state-backed China Media Capital.

Jimmy Kimmel to host ABC's Emmy broadcast airing Sept. 18

NEW YORK (AP)—Jimmy Kimmel will host this year's Emmy Awards broadcast. ABC announced Monday that Kimmel, host of that network's late-night "Jimmy Kimmel Live," will return for the 68th Primetime Emmy Awards, which airs Sept. 18.

Kimmel's comment on the news: "I have a feeling I'm going to be great."

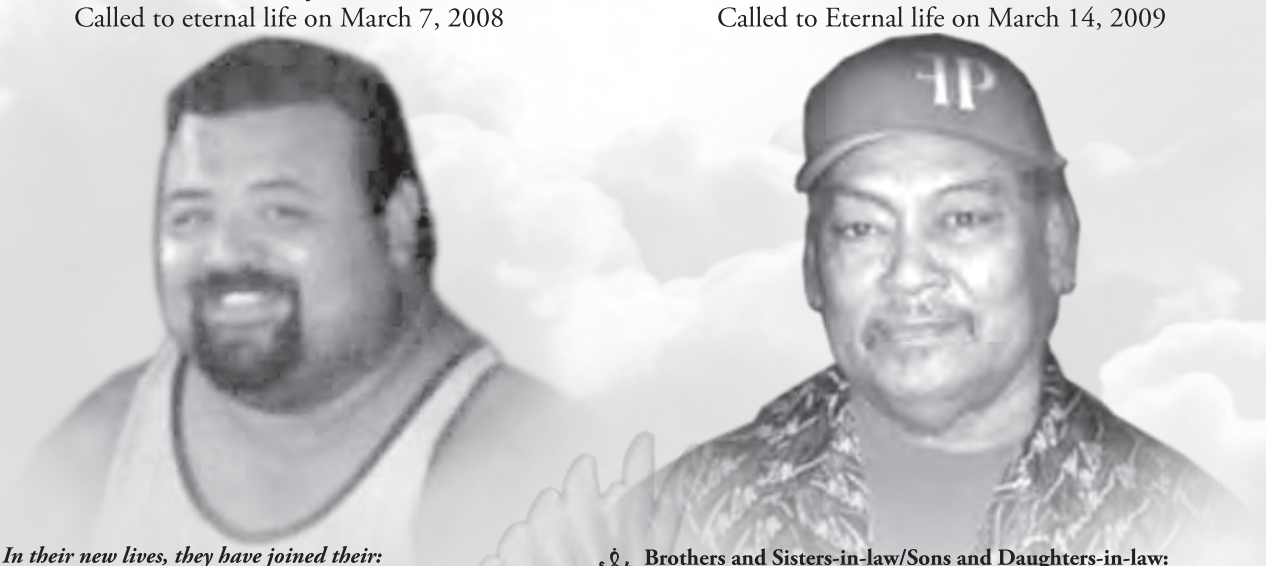
It's the second time for Kimmel, who first hosted the Emmys in 2012. The show will originate from the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

Nominations for the Emmy Awards will be announced July 14.

Memorial Service for

†Dean Anthony Q. Kapileo
Born to Life on June 7, 1975
Called to eternal life on March 7, 2008

†Singeru Francisco Xavier I. Techur
Born to life on December 31, 1943
Called to Eternal life on March 14, 2009



In their new lives, they have joined their:
Brother/Son: Peter Techur, Singeru, Jr.
Sister/Daughter: Leonicia Kapileo Techur
Niece/Granddaughter: Kirsten Takai Techur

Their loving memories will forever live in the hearts of their:
Wife/Daughter-in-law: Corene Marie E. Kapileo
Children/Grandchildren: Doricia, Coralene (Kovanni Dean), Cassandra (Lilyann Maries and Jazmin Shane), TJ (Raileey Dean, Tailor Jay, Maileey)

Mother/Wife: Dionicia Kapileo Techur

Brothers and Sisters-in-law/Sons and Daughters-in-law: (Christopher), Jeffrey, Michael/Gloria (Ashley, Leeanie, Kortney, Myles), Donovan/Teresita (Singervan, Yoshieveno, Onaly Ann), Markub/Josephine (Dionirose, Miililani Rose, Alayna Rhoslyn), Nathan

Sisters/Daughters: Donna (Faunicia), Dayna (Xavier, Coby, Kylie), Sara Fransae (Kegan, Caiden), Rosalee, Gila

Numerous nephews, nieces, godchildren, cousins, aunts, uncles, friends miss them dearly.

Rosary is being said nightly at 7:30 p.m. at the family beach house in Tanapag. On Monday, March 14, 2016, memorial gathering will start at 7:00a.m. at the family beach house in Tanapag. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. at the Nuestra Seniora Bithen Delos Remedios Church followed by interment services at Tanapag Cemetery.

Your thoughts, prayers, words of comfort and presence are sincerely appreciated.

Dionicia Kapileo Techur and Children

Jury awards Erin Andrews $55M in lawsuit over nude video

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A jury awarded Erin Andrews $55 million on Monday in her lawsuit against a stalker who bought a hotel room next to her and secretly recorded a nude video, finding that the hotel companies and the stalker shared in the blame.

After a full day of deliberations, the panel said the stalker was responsible for 51 percent of the verdict and the two hotel companies should share the rest, which is nearly $27 million.

Andrews, a Fox Sports reporter and co-host of the TV show "Dancing with the Stars," wept as jurors announced the verdict. She hugged her attorneys, family and several jurors after the verdict was read. She appeared to sign an autograph for at least one juror.

The jury heard directly from Andrews, who testified that she was humiliated, shamed and suffers from depression as a result of the video, which has been viewed by millions of people online. She had asked for $75 million.

Andrews' parents described for jurors the terror they and their daughter felt after learning of the video but not knowing who took it, where it was shot and if someone was still watching their daughter.

An FBI investigation would later reveal that Michael David Barrett shot videos in hotels in Nashville and Columbus, Ohio, and posted them online. The trial focused on the video shot in 2008 at the Nashville Marriott at Vanderbilt.

"I've been honored by all the support from victims around the world. Their outreach has helped me be able to stand up and hold accountable those whose job it is to protect everyone's safety, security and privacy," she said in a statement posted on her Twitter account.

On Friday, Davidson County Circuit Court Judge Hamilton Gayden found Barrett at fault and left it up to jurors to decide if the hotel owner, West End Hotel Partners, and former operator, Windsor Capital Group, should share any responsibility. The hotel is a franchise and Marriott was not part of the trial.

AP

Sportscaster and television host Erin Andrews leaves the courtroom with attorney Scott Carr, right, after the verdict was read in her lawsuit Monday, March 7, 2016, in Nashville, Tenn.

Attorneys for the companies argued that while what happened to Andrews was terrible, the stalker should be solely to blame because he was a determined criminal. The attorneys also suggested that Andrews' rise in her career showed she did not suffer severe and permanent distress.

After the verdict, they said they were disappointed and not sure if they would appeal. They noted their cooperation in the FBI investigation and said the case had changed the hotel industry to make rooms more secure.

Andrews said her stalker's arrest and imprisonment did not make the nightmare go away. She broke down on the stand repeatedly, saying she continues to suffer because people are still watching the videos and taunting her about them.

"This happens every day of my life," Andrews said tearfully. "Either I get a tweet or somebody makes a comment in the paper or somebody sends me a still video to my Twitter or someone screams it at me in the stands and I'm right back to this. I feel so embarrassed and I am so ashamed."

Barrett pleaded guilty to stalking Andrews, altering hotel room peepholes and taking nude videos of her. He was sentenced to 2 1/2 years in prison. He did not appear at the trial.

Andrews has maintained that someone at the hotel gave out her room number to Barrett and honored his request to be placed near her. She said no one ever told her that he asked to be in an adjoining or connecting room. Had she known that, she said she would've called police.

Barrett was a Chicago-area insurance company executive who frequently traveled around the country when he took the video of Andrews at the Nashville hotel in September 2008. He shot about 4 1/2 minutes of nude video of her while she was inside a room that was in an alcove off a main hallway. The video was played for jurors.

In Barrett's videotaped deposition, he said that he alone was to blame. He said he correctly guessed that she would be at the hotel—it was the closest one to the Vanderbilt football game Andrews was covering—by calling and pretending to be in a group with Andrews and asking for confirmation of the reservations.

He said he used an in-house employee phone to learn her room number, and made a request to be in the room next to Andrews.

During closing arguments, one of Andrews' lawyers said Barrett tried to shoulder responsibility because he holds a grudge against her over his conviction and didn't want her to win any money.

Barrett said he posted the recordings online after celebrity gossip website TMZ refused to buy them. The only reason he picked Andrews, he said, was because she was popular and he saw that she was trending on Yahoo.

AC/DC postpones tour due to singer's possible hearing loss

LOS ANGELES (AP)—AC/DC are postponing the remaining dates of their U.S. tour because of lead singer Brian Johnson's possible hearing loss.

The band says in a statement that doctors have advised the "Back in Black" singer to stop touring immediately or risk total hearing loss.

The group's shows beginning Thursday in Atlanta through April 4 in New York are being rescheduled for later in the year—likely with a guest vocalist.

AC/DC opened the most recent U.S. leg of its "Rock or Bust" tour Feb. 2 in Tacoma, Washington.

The band is scheduled to begin a European leg May 7 in Lisbon, Portugal.

Man looking at gay porn may be more than merely curious

DEAR ABBY: I've been with my fiance for three years and I'm very much in love. A few months ago I asked to use his phone to look up something on the Internet because my battery had died. It opened up to a gay porn site! I was shocked and asked him if it was something he was looking at. He admitted that it was.

Nothing like this has happened to me before, so I began asking if that's what he likes and is into. He assured me the answer was no. He said he looked because he was simply curious about it. He told me he loves women and doesn't want to be with men. He said he was just looking.

I believe him, but is this normal behavior?

WEIRDED OUT IN THE WEST

DEAR WEIRDED OUT: I took your question to an expert on the subject of adult entertainment viewing, Larry Flynt. He said that while CURIOSITY is normal, not many heterosexual men make a habit of viewing gay male porn sites. He added that if your fiance is a regular consumer of this kind of entertainment, he may have latent homosexual tendencies.

I then consulted Jack Drescher, M.D., a psychoanalyst and expert on gender and sexuality, who told me that some people fantasize about people of the same sex, but never ACT on it. According to Dr. Drescher, what is important is that you and your fiance are able to talk about sex honestly and openly. If you need more assurances, continue this discussion so that you both will know what you're getting if your betrothal leads to marriage.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband of 40 years is a smoker. I am not, but have learned to live with the smell, etc. Most of the time he smokes outside, except in winter, when he opens the bathroom window, smokes his cigarette, puts it out in the toilet and disposes of the butt in the trash can.

He has begun a new behavior that is really bothering me. When he wakes up in the middle of the night to use the bathroom, he'll light up a cigarette, take a few puffs and then put it out and return to bed. When he gets back in our bed, he stinks! And he coughs and coughs.

I try not to nag him about his smoking, but I'd really like to bring this up. Any suggestions on how?

IN A STINK IN ALASKA

DEAR IN A STINK: If your husband can't sleep through the night without smoking, it should be obvious to you that your husband is seriously addicted to nicotine. How sad for him. Suggest that he keep a pack of nicotine gum in the medicine cabinet and chew it rather than light up before he returns to bed. That may solve your problem.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: We rented a house for my companion's sibling reunion. During a conversation over breakfast, one sister became extremely upset with another sister for inserting herself into the conversation. I tried to make light of the situation and remarked to the offended sister that in a social gathering at a table, conversations are not private, but open and shared with others. She disagreed and insisted I was wrong. Have I been rude all of my life? Please settle this for us.

CURIOUS IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR CURIOUS: You have not been rude all your life. However, in this case you were foolish to put yourself in the middle of a sibling conflict—one that has probably been going on since the sisters were children. The next time it happens —and it will—pretend that you are Switzerland and remain neutral.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

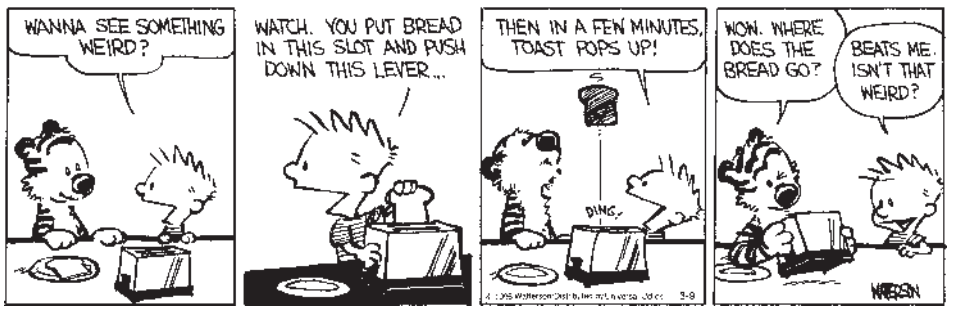
By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

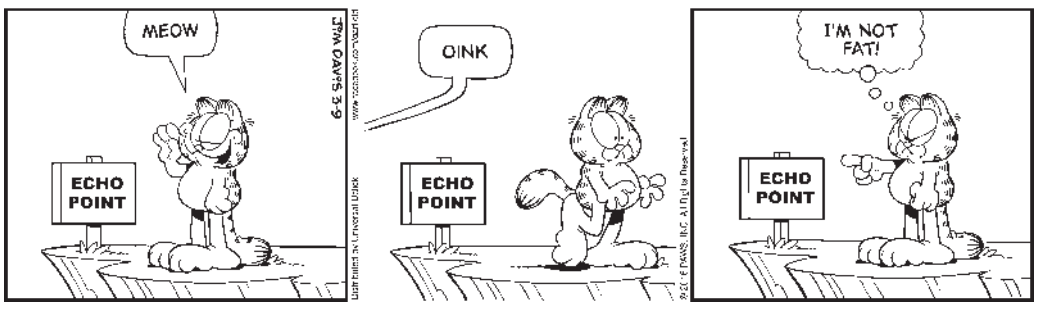
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WANNA SEE SOMETHING WEIRD?
WATCH. YOU PUT BREAD IN THIS SLOT AND PUSH DOWN THIS LEVER...
THEN IN A FEW MINUTES, TOAST POPS UP!
DING.
WOW. WHERE DOES THE BREAD GO?
BEATS ME. ISN'T THAT WEIRD?
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

ALL RIGHT. LET'S LIMBER UP A BIT.
IT'S SUPER IMPORTANT TO STRETCH OUT BEFORE STRENUOUS ACTIVITY.
EASY, BUDDY. YOU'RE LIABLE TO PULL A HAMMY WITH THAT ADVANCED STUFF.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Nap site
4 Logical
8 Easy targets
12 Raw mineral
13 Goatee's spot
14 Latin 101 word
15 NBC show since 1975
16 Black Hills metropolis
18 Conversation starter
20 "Gee, ya think?"
21 Yale students
24 Allude to
28 1973 McQueen/Hoffman film
32 Tropical tuber
33 Actress Gardner
34 Man of La Mancha
36 Race segment
37 Ping- —
39 Pudding choices
41 Poker payments
43 Ms. McEntire
44 Eggy quaff
46 Allen or Frome
50 Tiny blood vessel
55 Red — beet
56 Beige
57 Malaria symptom
58 Mil. group
59 Some July babies
60 Gym pads
61 Blue bird

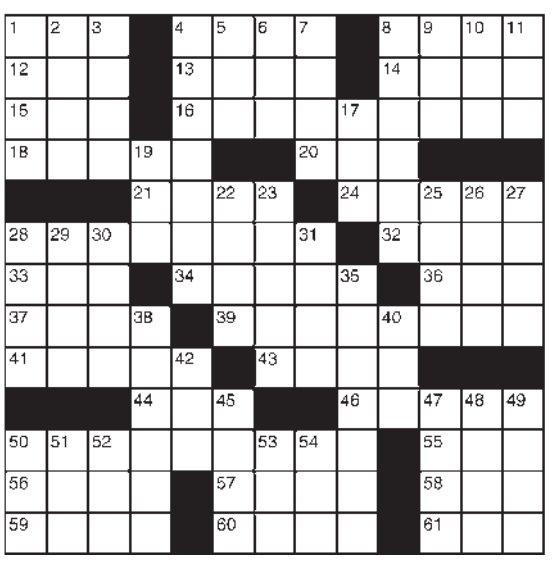
DOWN

1 "Nonsense!"
2 Sea flier
3 Farmer's place
4 Dead Sea documents
5 "Eureka!"
6 Chill in the air
7 Wife of Geraint
8 Potpourri bag
9 Paris pal
10 Bit of butter
11 Farm pen
17 Burrowed
19 Floral ring
22 "— a Song Go Out of My Heart"
23 Sub detector
25 Body powder
26 Region
27 Clothing, informally
28 Haydn nickname
29 Bard's river
30 Huff and puff
31 "Uh-uh"
35 Steak cuts
38 Mensa contender
40 Granola grain
42 Costa del —
45 Glitz partner
47 Pilgrimage to Mecca
48 Europe's neighbor
49 Almost black
50 Animation frame
51 Expert
52 Expert
53 Khan title
54 Same old same-old

Solution time: 23 mins.

A	D	A	M	■	A	P	E	D	■	L	A	G
L	I	D	O	■	G	A	G	A	■	I	M	A
L	A	S	I	L	A	U	G	H	■	H	O	G
■	■	■	E	A	H	L	■	L	E	E	K	S
H	A	L	■	Y	■	■	K	■	L	L	■	■
O	R	E	S	■	M	O	N	A	L	I	S	A
T	E	X	■	D	O	P	E	S	■	N	E	W
C	A	L	■	I	O	P	E	■	P	E	A	L
■	■	U	S	S	R	■	■	H	O	S	T	S
C	U	T	U	P	■	M	A	U	L	■	■	■
A	S	H	■	L	O	O	S	E	L	I	P	S
N	E	O	■	A	S	A	P	■	E	D	I	E
E	R	R	■	Y	E	N	S	■	N	O	T	A

Yesterday's answer 3-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shad Moss, 29; Brittany Snow, 30; Matthew Gray Gubler, 36; Juliette Binoche, 52.

Happy Birthday: Take a bold step forward when dealing with partnerships. Share your thoughts and don't be afraid to negotiate in order to maintain equality and balance. Presenting what you have to offer long-term will put you in a good position and help you build the respect and confidence required to get things done. Make love and romance a priority. Your numbers are 4, 15, 22, 26, 34, 41, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Combine insight and originality with charm and you will achieve your objective. Using your talents in different ways will pay off by opening up a market that you never realized was available to you. Romance is featured. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Be inquisitive and show an interest and concern in what others say and do. Networking will open doors personally and professionally. Sharing your feelings openly will help you find out exactly where you stand and who is willing to stand beside you. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Set a budget and don't deviate from it, and you will be able to invest in something that benefits you and your loved ones. Put yourself first and don't trust someone who is offering a fast-cash scheme or a tempting sales pitch. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll overreact to what others say or do, putting you in a vulnerable position. Don't share personal information and you'll avoid having your trust violated. The observations you make and the experience you gain will help you move your plans forward. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't trust everyone. Stick to your plans and you will prosper. Do things on your own to deter anyone from taking credit for your ideas and hard work. Do your best and don't leave any room for mistakes, or criticism will prevail. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Step into the spotlight and show everyone what you have to offer. Your efforts will draw interest and allow you to expand your expectations. Spending quality time with someone special will lead to long-term plans and personal happiness. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Procrastination will be your downfall, especially when it comes to the role you want to play in your relationships with both personal friends and colleagues. It's time to look at the pros and cons and make a decision. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Get out and mingle with people who are heading in a similar direction as you. Collaboration will lead to greater accomplishments and motivate you to go above and beyond what's expected of you. A change of plans will work in your favor. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Be firm, and don't let anyone get away with emotional manipulation. Make it clear that you will be the master of your own destiny. Bring about positive changes at home and to the way you live. Do what's best for you. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Keep your ideas and plans a secret for the time being. Ignore what others do even if it doesn't play into what you are doing. Let past experience be your guide and you will have no regrets moving forward. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Change what you don't like. It's up to you to provide your own happiness. Whether it's a different job or moving to a new location, it's up to you to start the ball rolling. Keep your life simple and within budget. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll instinctively know what others want and expect. Use your knowledge and experience to make things happen. Reuniting with someone from your past will help keep the momentum flowing. Don't let stubbornness lead to regret. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are strong-willed, intense and original. You are focused and precise.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9	5	4				6	1
		8	5	7		4	9	
				6		8		
			8	4	6			
		6				9		
8	4		1				2	
5							3	
	8	7	3				4	
			2	9			7	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	2	5	7	4	6	3	1
1	6	5	9	2	3	8	7	4
7	4	3	8	1	6	2	5	9
9	5	1	2	6	8	3	4	7
6	3	8	7	4	9	5	1	2
4	2	7	1	3	5	9	6	8
2	8	6	4	5	7	1	9	3
3	1	4	6	9	2	7	8	5
5	7	9	3	8	1	4	2	6

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

I TAKE SPIRIVA Solution: 10 letters

B	P	E	A	T	C	E	F	F	E	E	D	I	S	R
R	R	V	M	S	C	H	R	O	N	I	C	I	E	E
O	E	O	F	P	T	S	G	N	U	L	T	N	L	D
N	S	R	N	U	H	H	H	E	S	O	N	D	U	W
C	C	P	O	C	N	Y	M	Ⓓ	Ⓞ	Ⓢ	Ⓔ	A	S	O
H	R	M	B	A	H	C	S	A	L	O	M	I	P	P
I	I	I	L	R	H	O	T	E	A	R	T	L	A	U
T	P	P	I	E	E	T	S	I	M	E	A	Y	C	L
I	T	A	S	L	E	A	R	P	O	A	E	A	O	M
S	I	T	T	A	S	W	T	E	A	N	R	R	U	O
E	O	I	E	X	A	L	W	H	S	S	T	P	G	N
D	N	E	R	Y	E	O	A	T	I	N	M	S	H	A
I	E	N	S	B	L	O	A	D	O	N	I	I	I	R
U	P	T	A	F	E	P	A	C	K	A	G	E	N	Y
G	O	L	N	A	R	R	O	W	I	N	G	O	G	N

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Aerosol, Airways, Asthma, Blister, Breathing, Bronchitis, Bronchospasm, Capsules, Chest, Chronic, Control, Coughing, Daily, Dose, Emphysema, Flow, Function, Guides, Improve, Insert, Label, Load, Lungs, Mouth, Narrowing, Nose, Open, Package, Patient, Powder, Prescription, Pulmonary, Relax, Release, Side Effect, Spray, Treatment

Yesterday's Answer: Betting

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or **21** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1-Violin Instructor. 3 years experience. Myong Run Corp. dba Doremi Music School. Tel. 233-7777.

---

(2) Bookkeeper, (8) Houseworker, (2) Computer Support Specialist. Minimum Salary. Mail resume to MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan, MP 96950.

Warehouse for RENT

REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #3 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

Job Vacancy Announcement
MUSICIAN
With five (5) years minimum experience as a professional musician. Must have the ability to sing, harmonize and play musical instruments, preferably keyboards, as soloists or as a member of the band. Be able to perform several musical styles/music genre to various customers such as but not limited to Japanese, Korean & Chinese.
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Sharapova fails drug test; penalty unknown

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Maria Sharapova's tennis career and Olympic hopes are in jeopardy, and she claims it's all because she failed to click on a link in an email that would have told her to stop taking meldonium.

The five-time major champion says she failed a doping test at the Australian Open in January for the little-known drug, which became a banned substance under the WADA code this year. The former world No. 1 took full responsibility for her mistake when she made the announcement at a news conference Monday in Los Angeles.

Sharapova could face a lengthy ban from the International Tennis Federation, possibly ending her season and preventing her from competing for Russia at the Rio Olympics.

"I know that with this, I face consequences," Sharapova said. "I don't want to end my career this way, and I really hope I will be given another chance to play this game."

The 28-year-old Sharapova received notice last week that she tested positive for meldonium, a blood flow-promoting drug she has been taking for 10 years for numerous health issues. Meldonium was banned because it aids oxygen uptake and endurance, and several athletes across international sports have already been caught using it.

AP

Tennis star Maria Sharapova speaks during a news conference in Los Angeles on Monday, March 7, 2016. Sharapova says she has failed a drug test at the Australian Open.

Sharapova and all players were notified of the changes in the WADA banned substances list in December. Sharapova claimed she simply missed the change, neglecting to click on the link.

"I take great responsibility and professionalism in my job, and I made a huge mistake," Sharapova said. "I let my fans down. I let the sport down that I've been playing since the age of 4, that I love so deeply."

Meldonium, also known as mildronate, is a Latvian-manufactured drug popular for fighting heart disease in former Soviet Union countries. Meldonium treats ischemia, or lack of blood flow, but can be taken in large doses as a performance-enhancer.

Sharapova said she began taking meldonium for "several health issues I had back in 2006," including a magnesium deficiency, regular influenza, "irregular" heart test results and early indications of diabetes, of which she has a family history.

Sharapova's penalties could range from a multiyear ban to a minimal sanction with no suspension if officials believe she made an honest mistake. WADA President Craig Reedie told The Associated Press that any athlete found guilty of using meldonium would normally face a one-year suspension.

The ITF's anti-doping program announced in a statement that Sharapova will be provisionally suspended starting this weekend while her case is examined. WADA spokesman Ben Nichols said the organization won't comment until the ITF makes a decision.

Sharapova and her attorney, John J. Haggerty, declined to say where Sharapova was put on the drug or where she gets it now, citing the ongoing process with the ITF. Meldonium is not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

"I understand the drug is sold particularly in Eastern Europe," Reedie told the AP in a telephone interview. "You can almost get it over the counter. For stronger versions, you might need a prescription. There has been a whole rash of these cases since the 1st of January when it appeared on the banned list. This might not be happening if athletes would be taking more care of the things that are on the list."

Reedie said meldonium can be "very strong medicine."

Although she has lived in the U.S. since childhood, Sharapova won a silver medal and served as Russia's flagbearer at the London Olympics four years ago.

Manning jokes, chokes up during retirement remarks

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Peyton Manning got through the weekend thanks to hundreds of texts and calls from men he played against or alongside over his unparalleled 18-year NFL career.

He had to crack a few jokes to help fight back the tears at his retirement news conference Monday, when the words didn't always come as easy as the emotions.

His voice cracking, especially when he mentioned his hero, Johnny Unitas, Manning said goodbye to the game he loved in an auditorium packed with friends, family and laughter.

Manning, who turns 40 this month, said the timing was simply right to call one last audible one month after winning his second Super Bowl trophy.

"I thought about it a lot, prayed about it a lot ... it was just the right time," Manning said. "I don't throw as good as I used to, don't run as good as I used to, but I have always had good timing."

Manning came to Denver on March 20, 2012, for the chance to win another title in the twilight of his career. General manager John Elway had the blueprints.

Four years later, he hobbles away a champion, just like his boss did 17 years ago.

Manning is going golfing later this week with brothers Cooper and Eli - whose trip to Denver Monday morning was scuttled by a stomach bug.

Manning plans to travel to Indianapolis later this month for a lower-key goodbye, nothing like this one, and said he'll still participate in his family's annual passing academy this summer.

Aside from that, it's anybody's guess.

Maybe a front office or a broadcast booth beckons. He hasn't ruled out anything other than this: he and his wife and 5-year-old twins won't be moving out of Denver. They love it here.

"I'm totally convinced that the end of my football career is just the beginning of something I haven't even discovered yet," Manning said. "Life is not shrinking for me; it's morphing into a whole new world of possibilities."

Monday wasn't a day to ahead but a time to take stock.

"When I look back on my NFL career, I'll know without a doubt that I gave everything I had to help my teams walk away with a win," Manning said. "There were other players who were more talented, but there was no one could out-prepare me, and because of that I have no regrets."

Elway thanked Manning for coming to Colorado, saying he made his own job easier, noting that with Manning living here, free agents were basically asking Elway "where do I sign?"

It was through the eyes of a former QB and not those of a GM that Elway really enjoyed watching Manning, however.

"Peyton Manning revolutionized the game," Elway said. "We all used to think a no-huddle was a fast pace, get to the line of scrimmage and get people off-balance. Peyton revolutionized it, and you know what, we're going to get to the line of scrimmage, take our time, I'm going to find out what you're doing and then I'm going to pick you apart.

"I can't tell you how many times I said, 'Dang, why didn't we think of that?'"

Manning went 50-15 in Denver, leading the Broncos to four AFC West titles, two Super Bowl trips, one championship, and in 2013 guided the highest-scoring offense in league history. All after retraining himself to throw following a series of neck fusion surgeries forced him to miss the 2011 season and he was cut by the Colts.

Former Colorado Rockies slugger Todd Helton, Manning's teammate at Tennessee in the 1990s, once told the story about how Manning's right arm was so shot after his neck operations that he thought Peyton was goofing around when he threw a football and it fluttered like a wounded duck.

"He had nothing," Helton recounted. "But I knew he'd come back and be Peyton Manning again because nobody else works that hard."

Manning revealed last summer he still had no feeling in the fingertips of his right hand, and yet he threw 140 of his NFL-best 539 TD passes for the Broncos, including a record 55 in 2013.

Team president Joe Ellis told Manning, "If there is a list of achievements needed to attain greatness, you've checked every box."

Elway was equally emotional when he walked away from the game after winning his second championship in 1999, and on Monday he said, "Having been through it, I know it's a hard day for him."

Indeed, Manning choked up several times, especially when he listed all the things he'd miss about football: deciphering defenses; the flights home after a big win; his teammates.

SIDEBAR

Eagles agree to trade RB Murray to Titans

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—DeMarco Murray will be leaving Philadelphia after only one season for Tennessee in a trade the Titans hope gives them the running threat they've lacked since releasing Chris Johnson, while the Eagles rid themselves of one of the contracts signed by former coach Chip Kelly.

"A trade (and) a new contract has been orchestrated to make (DeMarco Murray) a member of the Tennessee @ Titans," Murray's agents at SportsTrust Advisors wrote on Twitter on Monday night.

Murray signed a five-year, $40 million contract with $21 million guaranteed with Philadelphia last year, and a person familiar with the trade told The Associated Press that Murray agreed to rework his deal. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal will not be announced until Wednesday.

ESPN first reported the trade.

Other terms of the deal were not immediately available. The Titans hold the No. 1 pick in the April draft and have eight draft picks—three in the top 64 selections.

Murray led the NFL in rushing for 1,845 yards with 13 touchdowns in Dallas in 2014 and was the NFL Offensive Player of the Year. But he was considered a bust in Kelly's offense, running for only 702 yards with the Eagles last season when forced to run out of the shotgun formation instead of deeper in the backfield. Murray did run for 112 yards Oct. 19 against the Giants.

Curry sets record 300 treys in win over Magic

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)— Stephen Curry scored 41 points and became the first player in NBA history to make 300 3-pointers in a season, and the Golden State Warriors set another record in a season full of them by holding off the Orlando Magic 119-113 Monday night for their 45th straight home victory.

Curry didn't match his 51-point performance against the Magic on Feb. 25 in which he hit 10 of 15 3-pointers, but shot 7 for 13 from long range and also pulled down 13 rebounds. He has 301 3s with 20 games to go.

Golden State surpassed the 1995-96 Chicago Bulls' 44 straight regular-season home victories and improved to 26-0 at Oracle Arena this season with its franchise-best sixth straight win against Orlando.

Klay Thompson added 27 points for the Warriors (56-6), who overcame a season-high 24 turnovers to bounce back from an ugly 112-95 road loss to the Lakers on Sunday that snapped a seven-game winning streak.

The Warriors are still chasing the Bulls' record 72-win season. Golden State's home winning streak includes the final 18 games of last season before the franchise's run to its first championship in 40 years. The Warriors haven't lost a regular-season game at Oracle Arena since falling to the Bulls in overtime on Jan. 27, 2015.

Draymond Green told the fans afterward: "45 straight home wins is incredible. Without you all, this would not be possible."

Victor Oladipo capped a 7-0 run when he made two free throws with 1:13 left to cut the Warriors' lead to two. Thompson then hit a baseline 3-pointer under pressure with 52.5 seconds remaining and Curry followed with a layup at the 44.3 mark and two free throws with 32.5 seconds to play.

AP

Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry (30) shoots over Orlando Magic's Evan Fournier (10) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, March 7, 2016, in Oakland, Calif. Golden State won, 119-113.

Grizzlies 106, Cavaliers 103

In Cleveland, when word reached the Cavaliers' locker room shortly before tip-off that the Memphis Grizzlies were down four starters, LeBron James got an uneasy feeling.

His fears were warranted.

Tony Allen scored a season-high 26 points and the Grizzlies, playing with just one of their starters, stunned the Cavaliers 106-103 on Monday night.

"We're all in this league for a reason," James said. "We didn't respect them tonight and they beat us."

Vince Carter made four free throws in the final 13.4 seconds to steal the upset by a Memphis team missing Mike Conley, Zach Randolph, Chris Andersen, Matt Barnes and had more coaches than players sitting on the bench.

Pacers 99, Spurs 91

In Indianapolis, Monta Ellis scored 26 points and Paul George added 23 to help Indiana end San Antonio's eight-game winning streak.

The Pacers led by double digits most of the night and hung on after San Antonio trimmed the deficit to three several times in the final 2 minutes.

It's only the second time in 17 meetings since 2008 that the Pacers have beaten the Spurs.

Kawhi Leonard and LaMarcus Aldridge each had 23 points for the Spurs.

The loss came hours after the team said coach Gregg Popovich did not make the trip because of a "family medical situation." A team spokesman did not provide additional details about his absence.

Indiana grabbed the lead with a 14-0 first-quarter run and never trailed again.

Clippers 109, Mavericks 90

In Dallas, Chris Paul scored 18 of his 27 points when Los Angeles took control in the third quarter, and DeAndre Jordan had 23 points and 20 rebounds amid another round of boos in Dallas.

Paul outscored the Mavericks by himself in the third while going 8 of 9 from the field, punctuating it with a leaning one-handed shot in the lane before the buzzer for a 33-16 advantage in the quarter for the Clippers, who trailed by two at halftime.

The boos were still strong for Jordan's second game in Dallas since he spurned the Mavericks in free agency after agreeing to join them. The 6-foot-11 center from Houston responded with a season high in points and even made most of his free throws (11 of 19) after delighting the crowd with an air ball in the first half.

Bulls 100, Bucks 90

In Chicago, Pau Gasol had 12 points, 17 rebounds, 13 assists and five blocked shots, and banged-up Chicago beat Milwaukee with All-Star Jimmy Butler sidelined by swelling in his left knee.

The Bulls had six players score in double figures in their second straight win after a four-game slide. Derrick Rose scored 22 points, Mike Dunleavy had 18 and E'Twaun Moore finished with 16 points and seven assists.

Butler missed 11 games before he returned for Chicago's 108-100 victory over Houston on Saturday night. But he had some stiffness in his back on Sunday and then developed some swelling in his knee on Monday, prompting the Bulls to hold him out for their matchup with Milwaukee.

Pelicans 115, Kings 112

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis had 31 points and 10 rebounds, and New Orleans came back from a 17-point, second-half deficit to beat Sacramento.

Norris Cole scored 23 and Jrue Holiday 20 for New Orleans, which snapped a four-game losing streak. Dante Cunningham added a clutch 3-pointer -- just his 40th of the season)—to give the Pelicans their first lead of the second half at 111-110 with 36 seconds left.

DeMarcus Cousins had 40 points, 16 rebounds and four steals for the Kings, but also committed five turnovers and missed the only two shots he attempted—both layups—in the final two minutes.

Rudy Gay and Rajon Rondo each scored 18 but Sacramento, which led by 10 with about 6 minutes left, hurt itself with seven turnovers in the fourth quarter.

Hornets 108, Timberwolves 103

In Charlotte, Kemba Walker scored 21 of his 34 points in the third quarter and Charlotte held off Minnesota for its fourth straight win.

Al Jefferson came off the bench to add 20 points, Marvin Williams had 15 and Nicolas Batum 11 for the Hornets.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 28 points and 14 rebounds, and Anthony Wiggins added 25 points for the Timberwolves, who were up 55-51 with 9:25 left in the third quarter.

Walker hit five 3-pointers in the third and Charlotte rallied, leading to seven lead changes and two ties. His jumper with 1:52 left put the Hornets up for good, 74-73.

Manfred waits on Reyes decision, explains lifting Utley ban

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred won't decide on discipline for Jose Reyes until after the domestic violence case involving the Colorado shortstop plays out in court.

Speaking Monday during the Rockies' exhibition game against the Chicago Cubs, Manfred also said he met with the players' association last week to begin collective bargaining for an agreement to replace the one that expires Dec. 1. He also said the decision to rescind Los Angeles Dodgers infielder Chase Utley's two-game suspension stemmed from the new sliding rules announced last week.

Manfred placed Reyes on paid suspension ahead of spring training under the domestic violence agreement reached last August. Last week, Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman agreed to a 30-game suspension.

"It depends on the circumstances of each case," Manfred said. "I can imagine a scenario where you're able to get all the information and put yourself in a position to make a decision. On the other hand, I think the single-biggest mistake you can make here is to make a decision quickly and then have additional facts come out afterward and undermine the quality of that decision."

Reyes is scheduled for a trial April 4 on a charge he abused his wife at a Hawaii resort on Oct. 31. Reyes has pleaded not guilty.

"Once that process plays out, I think we'll be in a position to have access to all the facts and be in a position to act quickly," Manfred said.

Manfred explained each domestic violence case is different.

"And they're not just what you think the facts are, it's also what facts you can prove," Manfred said. "We're just not in a position to have a great grasp of the facts quite yet. I think we'll be in a much better position once the legal process plays out."

Manfred indicated he's preparing for frequent meetings with the union on a new labor contract.

"We've had one meeting already, and they will continue during spring training," he said. "I don't talk about the substance of those other than to say we got a nice early start, and that's a good thing for everybody."

The commissioner said the new sliding rule played a role in the decision to rescind the suspension of Utley, originally penalized two games for a hard takeout slide that broke a leg of New York Mets shortstop Ruben Tejada during last season's NL Division Series. The penalty was put on hold while Utley appealed.

"Given that you can't go back to the World Series and alter him playing or not playing in that World Series, it seemed like a good result to move on and focus on the new rule going forward."

Manfred also said his office consulted with the union before submitting a proposal to the U.S. Treasury Department that would allow teams to sign Cuban players without them having to establish residence outside the communist island nation.

"We did have a conversation about it. It's pending," Manfred said. "It's really in the government's hands at this point, and I don't necessarily expect quick action there."

Easy wins for Mobil/JP World, Kauila

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kauila Enterprises' Jake Santos pulls up for a shot against Saipan Fresh Market's Dexter Tenorio, left, and Jacob Villagomez during the third quarter of their game in the DL caging last Thursday at the San Antonio court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mobil/JP World and Kauila Enterprises sustained a good start to ease past their respective foes in the DL Corp Invitational Basketball League Season 5 last Thursday at the San Antonio court.

In the first game, Mobil/JP World dominated Kalayaan, 93-78, while Kauila topped Saipan Fresh in the second match, 90-69.

Kauila built an early double-digit lead, 22-11, and kept going in the remaining three quarters en route to the 21-point winning margin.

A balance scoring in the opening period allowed Kauila to take control of the match and double up Saipan Fresh. Six different players hit the board for Kauila in the first 10 minutes of play with four of them making at least two field goals apiece. Saipan Fresh, on the other hand, had only Oliver Itibus drilling more than one field goal for the team in the first canto.

Saipan Fresh never recovered from thereon, as Kauila much deeper bench provided a steady source of production for the winning squad.

Four Kauila players ended up scoring in twin digits, while four others combined for 29 points. Ken Viray paced Kauila with is 16 points, while Elmer Esdrelon chipped in 15, and Jake Santos and Perry Inos tallied 12 and 11, respectively.

In the first game, Mobil/JP World also recorded 20-plus points in the first quarter to set up the easy win. Mobil/JP World distributed the wealth, too in the opening frame to establish a 22-13 lead, which ballooned to 25 at the break, 54-29, as the team continued to get points from every player it fielded against Kalayaan.

Kalayaan could not keep up with Mobil/JP World's even offense, as the former relied heavily on Sonny Lerio, who led all scorers with his 32 markers. Kalayaan lost its season debut, while Mobil /JP World got its second win in three games.

First Game

Mobil/JP World 93—Mangali 19, Borja 11, Cortez 10, Lilles 10, Quan 10, Camacho 8, Ferrer 7, Pagarao 5, Sanciangco 4, Dizon 2.

Kalayaan 78— Lerio 32, Henderson 15, Rotap 9, Tagle 6, Sablan 6, Hernandez 3, Diaz 2, Herrera 2, Acuveria 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-13, 54-29, 79-47, 93-78.

Second Game

Kauila 90— Viray 16, Esdrelon 15, J. Santos 12, Inos 11, De Guzman 9, Rueda 8, Guiang 8, E. Santos 4, Guiab 2, Alegre 2.

Saipan Fresh 69— Tenorio 13, Kwon 12, O. Itibus 12, kauron 7, Babauta 7, M. Itibus 6, Deleon Guerrero 6, Fitial 3, Francisco 2, Villagomez 2,

Scoring by quarters: 22-11, 48-35, 72-45, 90-69.

Infantino asserts FIFA power, won't just be an ambassador

CARDIFF, Wales (AP)—Newly-elected Gianni Infantino is standing firm against the FIFA administration's determination that he is only an ambassadorial president, declaring he will be the ultimate boss of world football.

In a shakeup of FIFA in the wake of scandals, a separation of powers is being implemented that hands the CEO-like secretary general control of business operations and a larger salary than the president.

In a document seen by The Associated Press last month, FIFA's communications staff told candidates to publicly say if they won: "The president's role will be strategic, ambassadorial and no longer executive."

That job description seemed weaker than the one envisaged in December by FIFA's reform committee: "The president should be the public `ambassador' of FIFA and aim to foster a positive image of the organization."

Infantino was a member of that reform panel established in response to criminal investigations into football corruption. And Sepp Blatter's successor said he will not be subservient to his yet-to-be appointed secretary general.

"I was elected by the FIFA congress to be the leader of FIFA—to be leading FIFA, not to be the ambassador of FIFA or to be the deputy of the general secretary of FIFA," Infantino said. "This is the role I want to fulfil. It's not a question of money of course. It's a question of institution and credibility."

The AP reported last week that FIFA's three-man remuneration committee decided presidents will now be paid less than the secretary general. During a visit to Cardiff for a meeting of football's law-making body, Infantino said he does not know his FIFA salary yet.

A priority for the former UEFA general secretary is hiring someone for that role at FIFA, replacing Jerome Valcke, fired in January over a ticketing and TV rights scandal as well as expenses abuses.

"The general secretary will have to be a very important role," said Infantino, who plans to hire a non-European. "I have been general secretary until last Friday of a confederation, UEFA, so I know exactly what it means.

"I know exactly how the chemistry has to work between the president and the general secretary, how the relationship has to be and what kind role the general secretary has."

Preparing for his second week in power, Infantino is determined to be a hands-on president.

"I am a worker, I will remain a worker, I am someone who has energy and I will remain someone who has energy," said Infantino, a 45-year-old Swiss-Italian.

"I'm trying to do the right thing, certainly making a lot of mistakes as well. But only if you don't do anything, you don't make mistakes. Even if make mistakes, I hope to do many more good things."

Infantino is still getting accustomed to the focus on the FIFA president, having only stood in the Feb. 26 election because UEFA President Michel Platini was suspended from world football.

While keen to create a new image for FIFA, which was led for 17 years by Sepp Blatter, Infantino knows he has to "look a little bit like a president" and not just abandon suits and ties.

"It is also an institution and we shouldn't forget that an institution also needs to be protected and also needs to convey a certain image sometimes," Infantino said.

BARNES

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bodybuilding, stand-up paddling, tennis, and badminton, and martial arts and team sports that the CNMI has had a history of success in international competition, such as baseball, fast pitch softball (men and women), and indoor volleyball, which is an island sport and can be played anywhere," the former Dean of Students at Northern Marianas College said.

"The second vision is the building or renovation of existing athletic facilities—such as a covered grandstand at Tan Ko baseball field/Tan Ge softball field, an air-conditioned Ada gym, extended grandstand at the track facility, and a world class soccer pitch/facility, all of which the entire community can be proud of," Barnes said.

VILLACRUSIS

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SSC members Taiga Sato (2:38:17), David Roberto (2:48:31), and Kento Akimaru (3:05:22). Other finishers in the 19-and-under division were Enfeng Wang (2:42:50), Su Hyun Kim (2:42:57), and Von Adrian Libayan (2:52:01).

In other results in the men's division, Saipan's Nap Dizon and Tyce Mister won the 40 to 44 and 45 to 49 age groups, respectively. Dizon timed in at 2:48:33 and was the lone competitor in his division to break the three-hour barrier. Dennis Bautista submitted 3:11:06 to place second, while Jerry Jaraplasan and Brad Ruszala came in at third and fourth with times of 3:11:51 and 3:40:33.

In the 45 to 49 age group, Mister also completed the course under the three-hour mark with his 2:37:58. The veteran Saipan triathlete prevailed against John Arceo (2:58:14), Mark Isip (3:00:52), Ricky Castro (3:12:24), Yun Hun Park (3:17:53), Yoshihiko Ito (3:18:01), Jeff Diyco (3:22:59), Fr. Ryan Jimenez (3:27:49), Yasuo Watanabe (3:37:53), and John Dax Moreno (3:54:46).

In the 50 to 54 division, Jack Baducci logged 2:40:24 to finish ahead of Russ Quinn (2:57:48), Scott Warren (2:58:01), Hiroaki Euno (2:59:32), Noel Altamirano (3:07:30), and Derek Chambers (3:178:16), while Saipan's Manny Sitchon (3:03:59) and Joshua Berger (3:01:57) took the top honors in the 55 to 59 and 60 to 64 age groups, respectively.

Rounding out the solo finishers in the solo course were Will Schroeder (3:02:16) and Donald Stover (3:16:15).

Meanwhile, in the Half Ironman course, Japanese Goshi Sato, Hiromu Shimada, and Reiko Okamoto were the amateur finishers. Sato posted 6:28:04 in the 1.9K swim, 90K bike, and 21.1 K run, while Shimada and Okamoto registered 6:55:27 and 7:35:31, respectively.

TAN HOLDINGS

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Park earned his first three minutes later. MP United bagged three more goals in the first half, courtesy of Tenorio' shot in the 14th and Park's back-to-back in the 19th and 27th. Kim lit up the board in the 47th minute, while Sablan closed out for MP United in the 67th. Gurung posted Matansa's only goal in the 42nd.

DIVISION 2
Sun Palace 6, WNT 1

Sun Palace grabbed the division lead from the Thundercats after whipping the CNMI Women's National Team.

Sang Ho Choi had a hat-trick to lift Sun Palace to a 3-1-0 mark. Cosmos Kim, Jun Sik Kim, and Jihu Jin contributed one goal apiece for Sun Palace, which has earned 10 points from its three victories and one draw for a slight advantage against second-running Shirley's (3-0-2/9 points).

The WNT fell to 1-0-4 record to remain at the bottom of the team standings in the six-squad field.

Shirley's 1, Thundercats 0

Shirley's moved up from third to second place after edging the Thundercats last Saturday.

Kazuaki Togo registered the lone goal in the match, as he found his target in the 32nd minute. Shirley's has won its last three games after dropping its first two.

The Thundercats absorbed their second loss and dropped to third with their 2-1-2 mark after failing to score against Shirley's.

World Resort 1, Kanoa 0

World Resort tied the Thundercats' record after slipping past Kanoa.

Dhiraj Chhetri delivered the winning goal for World Resort in the 62nd minute. Kanoa was handed its second defeat in four games and remained in fifth place in the team standings with its 1-1-2 slate.

Bike Leg of 2016 Tagaman Triathlon

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

South Korean female triathlete Myung Hwa Chea heads out of the Bird Island Lookout turnaround point during the bike leg of the 2016 Tagaman Triathlon held last Saturday.

Pacific Islands Club-Saipan employee Raymund Tolentino keeps his focus while pedaling his way toward the tricky curves of Saipan's northernmost point.

Goshi Sato negotiates a flat road.

Australia's Belinda Hadden, left, tries to keep in pace with South Korea's Ha Yeon Lee as they head out of Banzai Cliff.

South Korean Gyu Seo Choi cruises along Marpi.

South Korea's Hwa Mok Jang makes the climb toward the Bird Island Lookout.

South Korea's Kaon Cho pedals his way toward the Bird Island Lookout.

Mieko Carey smiles as she heads out of Grotto.

A Reum Jo of South Korea heads down the curve.

Switzerland's Renata Bucher turns right toward Grotto after completing the Bird Island Lookout portion of the grueling race.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Barnes is Administrator of the Year

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

2015 Administrator of the Year Kurt Barnes, left, and CNMI Hall of Famer Jeff Race listen to NMSA president Mike White during the trophy presentation in the 2015 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet held last Saturday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Kurt Barnes got a belated birthday gift as he was named Administrator of the Year during the 2015 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet held last Saturday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Barnes, who celebrated his 75th birthday last month, received the coveted award for a sports official in the Commonwealth for his outstanding work with Northern Marianas Sports Association where he serves as vice president.

The former Northern Marianas Athletics president through the help of Northern Marianas Housing Corporation and NMSA executive director Tony Rogolifoi secured funding for the renovation of the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility. He was instrumental, too, in getting a tax exempt status for the Northern Marianas Sports Foundation, which he heads. Barnes also chairs the NMSA Hall of Fame Selection Committee, doing research on the four newest members of the elite group.

Fellow CNMI Hall of Famer Jeff Race of tennis presented the Administrator of the Year award to Barnes, while NMSA president Michael White enumerated the awardee's achievements last year.

"It's an award that symbolizes working as a team, especially with Tony Rogolifoi, for the good of sports in the community," Barnes said when asked of the significance of the Administrator of the Year plum to his long list of feats.

The award could also be a fitting farewell for the longtime sports official, as he is considering relocation to the mainland to spend more time with his triplet brothers.

Pending his final decision, Barnes will continue with his work at NMSA, which he hopes will also honor athletes in masters division in its future recognition ceremony.

"I would like to see more masters sports in the CNMI, even with Master Athletes of the Year awards at the NMSA Sports Banquet. There are a lot of athletes in their 50s, 60s, and 70s who still compete at a very high level on a regular basis," the septuagenarian said.

He also has two visions which he wishes NMSA will adopt.

"The first one is more participation in individual sports, such as weightlifting, wrestling,

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Tan Holdings shuts down KFAS

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tan Holdings' Sean Perez kicks the ball during the first half of their game against Korean Football Association on Saipan in the M-League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tan Holdings blanked Korean Football Association on Saipan, 3-0, during their Division 1 game in the 2016 M-League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

With the victory, Tan Holdings improved to a 2-0-1 win-draw-loss record and took the division lead. Tan Holdings evened out KFAS, Paire, and MP United's marks, but the former has the most goals (11) to win the tiebreak.

Martin Jambor added two to Tan Holdings' total, as he put the team on the board in the 30th minute and made it a double eight minutes later. Sean Perez knocked in the other goal for Tan Holdings, as he found the back of the net in the 52nd minute.

MP United 7, Matansa 1

In the other Division 1 match last weekend, MP United eased past Matansa.

Sun Bae Park starred in the lopsided victory after drilling a hat-trick. Jeong Woo Kim, Greg Sablan, Kiyoshi Sekiguchi, and Sunjoon Tenorio chipped in one goal apiece, while Matansa got its lone goal from T.J. Gurung.

Sekiguchi scored first for MP United with his conversion in the third minute, while

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Villacrusis leads Saipan finishers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club's Christian Villacrusis had an outstanding debut as a solo participant in the 2016 Tagaman Triathlon after emerging as the top Saipan finisher in the Olympic course of last Saturday's race.

The 15-year-old athlete completed the 1.5-kilometer swim, 40K bike, and 10K run in 2:37:49 to rule the 19-and-under division and beat six others in his field. Villacrusis, who had split times of 21:56 , 1:19:22, and 56:31 was No. 4 overall out of the 54 finishers and second in the entire men's field behind South Korea's Jeong Hwan Ji (2:37:13). Gyu Ri Kim and Won Jeong Choi, also of South Korea, were the Top 2 finishers in the women's division and overall after clocking in at 2:19:53 and 2:26:38, respectively.

Villacrusis made it to the finish line at the American Memorial Park ahead of fellow

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Christian VIllacrusis heads north after completing a turn in Koblerville during the bike leg of last Saturday's 2016 Tagaman Triathlon.